



Universal Service
Administrative Co.

USAC

Emergency Connectivity Fund Program Newsletter

September 28, 2021

It's here! **The second Emergency Connectivity Fund Program application filing window is open** for schools and libraries to request funding for connected devices and broadband connections for off-campus use by students, school staff, and library patrons for the current 2021-22 school year. **The second application filing window opened today, Tuesday, September 28, 2021 and will close on October 13, 2021** at 11:59 p.m. ET. During this window, eligible schools and libraries, in addition to consortia of eligible schools and libraries, can submit requests for funding to purchase eligible equipment and services between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 to meet the remote learning needs of students, school staff and library patrons with unmet needs. The FCC's announcement of the second application filing window is available on their [website](#).

Please note that the FCC released a [public notice](#) last week directing USAC to review and process applications filed after the close of the ECF Program's initial application filing window with those filed in the second application filing window. Applicants who certified and submitted their ECF FCC Forms 471 after the close of the initial filing window on August 13, 2021 will not be required to resubmit their applications during the second application filing window, nor will they need to file a request for waiver of the initial 45-day application filing deadline with the Commission.

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

[Commitments for the First Application Filing Window](#)

On Friday, September 24, 2021, the FCC [announced](#) that the first wave of funding commitments totaling over \$1.2 billion for the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program. The approved commitments account for approximately 20% of the total amount requested during the initial application filing window and will fund 3,663 applications from 3,040 schools, 260 libraries, and 24 consortia across all 50 states, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. The FCC and USAC will continue to review applications expeditiously and will be making additional funding commitments on a rolling basis in the coming weeks.

[Request for Reimbursement Submission](#)

Invoicing will be available through the ECF Portal starting this Friday, October 1, 2021. Service providers and applicants have access to the ECF Portal through their OnePortal dashboard and can view any funding requests that they are associated with through the ECF Portal. Applicants and service providers, who agree to invoice on behalf of applicants, can also use the ECF Portal to submit requests for reimbursement (i.e., ECF FCC Forms 472 or 474) for the ECF Program.

Please note that applicants and service providers, who agree to invoice on behalf of applicants, will not be able to receive program funding until they have completed their SAM.gov registration. The SAM.gov banking information will be used for reimbursement.

For additional information regarding the request for reimbursement process for [applicants](#) and [service providers](#), please visit the Emergency Connectivity Fund website.

[Upcoming Webinars](#)

USAC will host an Emergency Connectivity Fund Office Hours session tomorrow, Wednesday, September 29 at 3 p.m. ET, where applicants and service providers can ask questions and receive information about the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program. Register for this event at the below link:

- Wednesday, September 29 @ 3 p.m. ET: Emergency Connectivity Fund Office Hours - [Register](#)

Training

USAC offers E-learning modules, including a Program Overview video, an ECF FCC Form 471 Walkthrough video, and an overview video for Tribal Schools, Libraries and Consortia to help applicants successfully participate in the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program.

Visit the [Training](#) section of the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program website to view trainings, access E-learning modules, register for office hour sessions, and view recordings of past trainings and office hours sessions.

Applicants can also find more information regarding the ECF FCC Form 471 [here](#) on the Program website.

Frequently Asked Questions

If I filed an application after the first application filing window deadline on August 13, 2021, should I cancel my application and reapply in the second window?

No. In accordance with [FCC Public Notice DA 21-1182](#), “while many schools and libraries timely submitted their applications during the initial application filing window, a number of applicants certified and submitted their ECF

FCC Forms 471 after the August 13 deadline. We therefore direct USAC to review and process these late-filed applications during the second application filing window in accordance with Program rules and requirements.

Applicants that certified and submitted their ECF FCC Forms 471 after the close of the initial application filing window on August 13, 2021 will not be required to resubmit their applications during the second application filing window, nor will they need to file a request for waiver of the initial 45-day application filing deadline with the Commission.”

What if I filed a waiver request for my late-filed application with the FCC already?

You can file a request to withdraw the waiver request in the FCC’s ECFS system, referencing the original ECF FCC Form 471 application number.

When will information about applications filed during the second application filing window be made available on Open Data?

Data from ECF funding applications submitted during the second application filing window (and late-filed applications moved to the second application filing window) will be made available after the close of the filing window on October 13, 2021.

Do CIPA requirements apply to a school's or library's existing computers if the school or library is seeking ECF-support to provide broadband services to its students', school staff members', or library patrons' homes for use only in conjunction with computers and devices the students, school staff or library patrons own?

No. If a school or library purchases eligible services, access, or network equipment through the ECF Program to be used only by student-, school staff- or library patron-owned computers and not by school- or library-owned computers, then the purchase does not trigger CIPA requirements for any school- or library-owned computers.

If you need help determining whether CIPA applies, click [here](#) to review the FCC's CIPA Compliance flowchart.

Do I need a SAM.gov account if I am an annual E-Rate applicant?

SAM.gov registration is necessary for all applicants and service providers that are submitting requests for reimbursement (ECF FCC Forms 472/474) and receiving funds from the U.S. government. Because this is not currently required to participate in the E-Rate program, applicants, who are planning to submit requests for reimbursement (ECF FCC Form 472) and have not registered before should begin the process now. Service providers that agree to invoice on behalf of applicants also need to be registered with SAM.gov. ECF applicants whose service providers will file invoices for ECF reimbursement on their behalf (SPI invoicing) are not required to register in SAM.gov.

Can a school or library submit a reimbursement request after it has received the ECF-supported equipment but before it distributes the equipment to their students, school staff, or library patrons?

Yes. While the school or library must have received the equipment or services prior to submitting their request for reimbursement and must certify to this on

the ECF FCC Form 472, they can seek reimbursement before distributing the equipment or services to students, school staff members, or library patrons with an unmet need.

Applicants and service providers are also reminded of the need to certify on their reimbursement requests (ECF FCC Forms 472/474) that they are not willfully or knowingly requesting reimbursement for equipment or services that are not being used.

Are taxes included as part of the \$400 maximum for connected devices?

No. Taxes are not included as part of the \$400 cap for connected devices, but reasonable fees are included within the \$400 capped amount.

I applied during the initial application filing window and I'm still waiting to hear back about my application. Is there anything else I should be doing now?

Double check that you have completed all of the registrations necessary for applying for and/or receiving ECF support, including:

- Obtaining a DUNS Number,
- Obtaining an FCC Registration Number,
- Obtaining a Billed Entity Number, and
- Registering with SAM.gov.

Be sure that the information provided in these registrations match the information included on your application. For more information about these registrations, review the [Getting Started](#) webpage.

Also, please be sure to respond to all information requests in a timely manner.

Will I have visibility in the ECF Portal for the committed version of my application?

Yes. Applicants will be able to see the committed version of the funding requests submitted within an application.

Will I receive a notification when the PIA reviewer contacts me about my application?

All full rights users in the ECF Portal will receive an email notification when the

PIA reviewer sends an external communication relating to the entity's application.

I can access the ECF Portal, but can't file any forms – what can I do?

Users that have view-only permissions will only be able to see forms created by others but cannot create forms themselves. The account administrator must upgrade your permissions in order to create forms. Please contact the account administrator for your organization.

Please review the FCC's Emergency Connectivity Fund FAQs, which it continues to update as new questions come in: www.fcc.gov/emergency-connectivity-fund-faqs.

[For More Information](#)

More detail on the 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 Emergency Connectivity Fund 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.

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.