Emergency Connectivity Fund

Lee Bray
State E-Rate Coordinator
Agenda

• Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) – Basic information
• Eligible services / products
• Prerequisite – Unmet Needs
• Application Process
• Payment Process
• Invoicing
• Timeline
• Other
Emergency Connectivity Fund Program (ECF)

- Established by Congress, Directed by the FCC (Federal Communications Commission), Managed by USAC (Universal Services Administration Company)
  - Established under FCC-21-58A1 – Report and Order
  - Provides 7.171 billion for remote learning
  - One-time program (currently)
  - 100% reimbursement of eligible expenses
  - Separate from E-Rate
  - Limited funding caps
    - Eligible devices
  - Internet (Wireline / Wireless / Hotspots) and Connected devices
Prerequisite – Unmet Need

- Schools must certify services and equipment will be used by:
  - Students
  - School Staff
  - Library patrons
- Lack adequate access
- Survey to determine need
  - Online, phone or paper survey
  - Must document if not previously determined
  - Must be completed prior to filing application
Eligible Products - Devices

• Laptops and Tablets
  • Not a refresh/replacement purchase
  • Limit of $400 per device
  • Teacher or student must need device for remote learning
  • Support video conferencing and remote learning
  • No size restriction
  • Limit one per person (Student / Teacher / Para-Professional / Library Patrons)
Eligible Products - Internet

• Wireline / Fixed wireless
  • Modems, routers, etc..
  • Limit one per household

• Hotspot service
  • Device funded up to $250
  • Limit one per person
  • School buses and bookmobiles eligible
    • Limited access - student, teacher, para-professional

• Air-cards

• Installation, configuration, and taxes eligible

• Primary use for educational purposes

• Service for July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022
Eligible Products – Self Provision Networks

- No commercially available services exist
- Seek support for new facilities
- Applicants must provide proof of no service
- Longer approval period expected
Eligible Locations

• Off campus – remote learning
  • Homes
  • Community Centers
  • School buses
• Users that lack broadband access
• Datacasting (private LTE, CBRS, etc..)
• Dark/lit fiber and other networks
• Funding prohibited for on-campus products and services
Ineligible Locations

- For-profit schools and libraries
- Schools and libraries with endowments in excess of $50 million
- Libraries whose budgets are not separate from schools
- Library or library consortium not eligible for assistance under Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)
- On-Campus products and services
Ineligible Products

- Smart Phones
- Desktop computers
- Cybersecurity and content filtering
- Applications / Software
- Standalone peripherals
- Extend warranty
- Voice Services
- Video Conferencing Equipment
- Spare equipment
Application Process

• Follow State purchasing guidelines
• Separate website for ECF
• Modified E-Rate Form 471
• 45 day filing window
• Applications reviewed by USAC
• Request BEAR / SPI process with vendor
Payment Process

• Modified E-Rate Forms
  • FCC Form 472 (BEAR)
  • FCC Form 474 (SPI)
• Invoices submitted for advance payment (not all services)
• Vendors can invoice directly (not required)
• Contact vendors prior to application process
Invoicing

• 60 days to submit line-item vendor invoices for reimbursement
• Recurring services through June 2022
  • Request reimbursement by August 29, 2022
• Request up-front funding
  • Applicant can request pre-reimbursement for equipment/services
    • Make payment within 30 days for receipt of ECF funds
  • Vendor can request direct payment from USAC
    • Requires applicant verification
• Must be registered with Sam.gov system to receive ECF reimbursement
Timeline

- Application year – July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022
- Application window – 45 days
- Window 1 opening – June 30, 2021
- Device retention – 3 years
Other

- Separate phone number and website
- Eligible services list
- No additional competitive bidding requirements (For ECF)
- CIPA certifications apply for school owned devices
- Document retention and tracking for 10 years
- No duplicative emergency funding sources
- Funding request exceeded – highest E-Rate discount receives funding first
Contact Information

• Lee Bray
  • lbray@mdek12.org
  • 601-359-5544