

# Emergency Connectivity Fund



**Lee Bray**

State E-Rate Coordinator

# Agenda

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

# Emergency Connectivity Fund Program (ECF)

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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

# Eligible Locations

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- 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

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- 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

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

# Application Process

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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

# Other

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- 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

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- Lee Bray
  - [lbray@mdek12.org](mailto:lbray@mdek12.org)
  - 601-359-5544