

Emergency Connectivity Fund

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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 opening - ???
- 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

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