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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