Emergency Connectivity Fund Program Newsletter

August 10, 2021

ECF Application Window Countdown: 3 Days to Window Close

Final 3 Days of the Initial Application Filing Window - Apply Now for Emergency Connectivity Fund Program Support!

The Emergency Connectivity Fund Program application filing window will be open for **3 more days!** Eligible schools and libraries **must apply by this Friday, August 13, 2021 at 11:59:59 p.m. ET**. **Do not wait until the last day to submit your application.** During the current application filing window, eligible schools and libraries, in addition to consortia of 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 who would otherwise lack access to connected devices and broadband connections sufficient to engage in remote learning.

Extended CSC Hours
Applicants and service providers can contact the Emergency Connectivity Fund Customer Support Center (CSC) with questions at (800) 234-9781 Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET. **Extended hours will be available during the following days this week:**

- Wednesday, August 11, 2021: 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. ET
- Thursday, August 12, 2021: 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. ET
- Friday, August 13, 2021: 8 a.m. to 11:59:59 p.m. ET (Last day of the application filing window)

Interested schools and libraries can find more information and apply for support at emergencyconnectivityfund.org.

FCC Resources
The FCC added newly updated resources, including an application process overview and a list of common misconceptions about the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program. You may also review additional Frequently Asked Questions about the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program here.

ECF Portal Training Site

If you have access to the EPC training environment, USAC will be providing you with the same access to the new Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) Portal training site. This site will allow you to practice filling out the ECF FCC Form 471. Last week, we sent out an email to those with access to the EPC training environment with credentials that have been assigned to you and a password for the ECF Portal training site.

If you do not have an existing account or did not get an email but have an existing account, please reach out to the CSC with questions at (800) 234-9781. Please note the CSC's extended hours for this week listed above.

Need Help?
USAC will continue to host weekly office hours where applicants and service providers can ask questions and get information about the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program application process. Register for this week's office hours sessions and office hours session for tribal applicants being held this Wednesday, August 11, 2021.

- Wednesday, August 11 @ 3 p.m. ET: Emergency Connectivity Fund Overview Office Hours – Register
- Wednesday, August 11 @ 4 p.m. ET: Emergency Connectivity Fund Overview Office Hours for Tribal Applicants - Register

Applicants and service providers can also contact the Emergency Connectivity Fund CSC with questions.

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

Are home-schooled students eligible for ECF supported devices and services?
When home-schooled students who lack access to eligible equipment or services are considered to be enrolled in public or non-profit private schools that provide elementary or secondary education, under the law of the applicable state, those schools can seek support from the

Emergency Connectivity Fund Program for funding to provide such students with eligible equipment or services. Similarly, eligible libraries could purchase eligible equipment or services for library patrons, including home-schooled students with an unmet need using ECF support.

Is a license to use a connected device eligible for ECF support?
Licenses, software, content filtering and security services included in the price of the connected devices are eligible for support and do not require cost allocation. However, separately priced licenses, software, content filtering, and security services are ineligible for ECF funding. Service providers may include these items in the price of the connected device. ECF support for connected devices is capped at $400 per device, even if the base price includes the cost of licenses, software, or content filtering and security services.

Our school entered into a three-year lease agreement for laptop computers last year to support online learning during the pandemic. Since we will continue to be paying for them during the funding cycle for the ECF program, do they qualify for this program?
Yes. Applicants may seek support for the costs of the financing paid between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022.

Should installation and configuration services for a connected device be a separate line item under the "equipment" FRN?
The installation and configuration should be requested as a separate line item associated with the funding request for the connected device.

Is a bundled three-year warranty that includes accidental damage protection eligible?
The eligible services list states that "[a] manufacturer's multi-year warranty for a period of up to three years that is provided as an integral part of an eligible component, without a separately identifiable cost, is also eligible." Accidental device protection, or insurance-type warranties, are ineligible.

For network construction, will service providers be able to request a one-year extension?
Unlike the E-Rate program, there are no exceptions in the ECF program rules allowing USAC to provide service delivery extensions for third-party or self-provisioned networks. If special circumstances warrant it, applicants may file a waiver of the one-year completion date.

Does a service provider need a Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) for ECF?
No. Service providers do not need to have a SPIN unless they are invoicing on behalf of the applicants.

The FCC continues to update its FAQs as new questions come in. Additional FAQs are available at: 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. Please see above for the CSC's extended hours on Wednesday – Friday of this week.

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.