

# Emergency Connectivity Fund Update

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# K12 Education Funds

Source	Category	Amount	Allocation Formula	Deadline
CARES Act	ESSER I	\$13.5B	Title I	Sept. 30, 2022
CARES Act	GEER I	\$3B	Population	Sept. 30, 2022
COVID Relief Package	ESSER II	\$54.3B	Title I	Sept. 30, 2022
COVID Relief Package	GEER II	\$4.1B	Population	Sept. 30, 2022
ARP Act	ESSER III	\$122.74B	Title I	Sept. 30, 2023
ARP Act	Non-Public Education	\$2.75B	Applied for by each state's Governor	Sept. 30, 2023
ARP Act	Emergency Connectivity Fund for Schools & Libraries	\$7.2B	USAC administered	Sept. 30, 2030

# Emergency Connectivity Fund for Libraries & Schools

## **\$7.17B Available**

### **Eligible Equipment & Services**

- Laptop, Chromebooks and tablet computers
- Wi-Fi hotspots
- Modems (including air cards)
- Routers
- Devices that combine a modem and router

### **Equipment Reasonable Support Amounts**

- \$400 Laptops, Chromebooks & tablets
- \$250 Wi-Fi Hotspots
- For other eligible equipment and services, the FCC and USAC will review costs to ensure they are reasonable.

## **What Should You Know About the Filing Window?**

- First Application Window will be open for 45 days
- Filing window opens on June 29<sup>th</sup> 2021 and closes August 13<sup>th</sup> 2021
- Funding covers purchases made between July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 and June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. USAC hopes to get 50% of FDCL's out by 60 days after close of window. 100% by 100 days after close of window
- No competitive bidding process (unless required by state, local or tribunal laws)
- Resellers do not have to have SPIN, but must have an FCC registration number and SAM.gov registration

## **Who's Eligible**

- Schools
- Libraries
- Consortia of Schools and Libraries

- All the schools, libraries, and consortia of schools and libraries that are eligible for support under the E-rate program are also eligible for support through the ECF Program.
- Schools and libraries eligible for Program funding **do not need** to be current E-rate participants.
  - Eligible entities that have not applied for E-rate support should be prepared to demonstrate eligibility as an eligible school or library under Program rules during USAC's application review.

## Ineligible Schools and Libraries

- For-profit schools and libraries
- Schools and libraries with endowments in excess of \$50,000,000
- Libraries whose budgets are not completely separate from any schools
- Libraries or library consortia that are not eligible for support from a state library administrative agency under the LSTA.
  - Tribal libraries are eligible for support under LSTA, and thus are eligible for support through the ECF Program

**The following types of equipment are eligible for support under the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program:**

- Wi-Fi hotspots
- Modems (including air cards)
- Routers
- Devices that combine a modem and router
- Laptop computers and tablet computers

**\*\*Desktop computers and smartphones are *ineligible* for Emergency Connectivity Fund Program funding.\*\***

**The following services are eligible for support under the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program:**

- Commercially available Internet access services providing a fixed or mobile broadband Internet access connection for off-campus use by students, school staff, or library patrons.
- Limited Exception for New Construction and Datacasting Equipment
  - Where there are no commercially available broadband Internet access services available, schools and libraries will be able to seek Emergency Connectivity Fund Program support to construct or self-provision networks to connect students, school staff, and library patrons who would otherwise not be connected to the Internet, or for the customer premises equipment needed to receive access to educational content through datacasting services. In order to seek support for network construction or for customer premises equipment to receive datacasting services, applicants must demonstrate that there were no commercially available Internet access services available sufficient to support remote learning from one or a combination of providers.

- **Applicants may seek funding for:**
  - Up to **\$400** for each connected device (laptops & tablets)
  - Up to **\$250** for each Wi-Fi hotspot provided to a student, school staff or library patron
- The reasonable costs of all other eligible equipment and services will be determined upon careful review by USAC with guidance from the FCC



# Preparing to Participate – Set Up an Entity Profile

- To apply for and receive ECF Program funding, participants will need and **ECF portal account**.
  - Applicants and consultants participating in the ECF Program will use this online portal to manage program processes
- To create your ECF portal account, USAC will use your new or existing credentials for the **E-rate Productivity Center (EPC)**.
- EPC is the account and application management portal for the E-rate program
- USAC will automatically transfer your EPC account information to create and account in the ECF portal

## **If you are already an E-rate participant and have an account in EPC:**

- You will get access to the new ECF portal with you existing EPC credentials.
  - This includes your entity or company information and account management settings, such as account users and user permissions

# Preparing to Participate – Set Up an Entity Profile

(continued)

## **If you are brand new to the Emergency Connectivity Fund and E-rate programs:**

- Obtain an FCC Registration Number and register with the System for Awards Management (SAM).
  - If you have already registered with both the FCC and SAM.gov, check to ensure your SAM.gov registration has not expired or will not expire in the near future.
  - Program participants can complete these registration steps before the application window opens.
- Create an EPC account for your entity or company.
  - Call ECF Customer Support Center at (800) 234-9781 Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET to set up your account in EPC.
    - Please note that the CSC is not yet available – it will open before the application funding window

# Preparing to Participate – Obtain and FCC Registration Number

- All Emergency Connectivity Fund participants must have an FCC Registration Number.
- Program participants can obtain an FCC Registration Number by visiting the FCC's Commission Registration System ([CORES](#)) and completing the registration process.
- If your organization already has an existing FCC Registration Number you do not need to register again.

# Preparing to Participate – Register with SAM.gov

- Registration with the [System for Awards Management](#) (SAM.gov) is necessary for all applicants and service providers who agree to invoice on behalf of applicants to be able to submit invoices for reimbursement.
- USAC recommends you first search SAM.GOV to see if your organization has a current registration.
- The SAM.gov registration process can take more than a week.
  - USAC recommends that participants begin the process now.
- Applicants can apply for the ECF Program support before their SAM.gov registration is approved, but will not be able receive program funding until they have completed their registration.

- To apply, Schools and Libraries complete the Emergency Connectivity Fund FCC Form 471.
- Applicants must complete and certify the Emergency Connectivity Fund FCC Form 471 during the filing window.
- Service providers may not complete the Emergency Connectivity Fund FCC Form 471 on behalf of a school or library.
- Applicants must certify that they have complied with all applicable local, state, and Tribal procurement requirements with respect to both previous purchases and future purchases and contracts.
- While similar, the Emergency Connectivity Fund FCC Form 471 is not the same form that applicants submit to participate in E-rate.

USAC will offer training to help applicants complete the Emergency Connectivity Fund FCC Form 471.

- Visit the Program website at [EmergencyConnectivityFund.org](https://EmergencyConnectivityFund.org).
- Sign up for the [Program Newsletter and Emails](#).
- Attend Program office hour sessions.
- Refer to the Program learning modules.
- Contact the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program Customer Support Center (CSC) at (800) 234-9781 Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET.

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# Resources for Additional Information

**Universal Service Administrative Co.**

<https://www.emergencyconnectivityfund.org/>

**Federal Communications Commission**

<https://www.fcc.gov/emergency-connectivity-fund-faqs>