Emergency Connectivity Fund Program Opens Second Application Filing Window

September 30, 2021

Dear Tribal Leader,

The second Emergency Connectivity Fund Program application filing window is now open for schools and libraries to request funding for connected devices and broadband connections for the current 2021-22 school year. **The second application filing window will remain open until October 13, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. ET.** We invite Tribal schools and libraries to apply for this funding and encourage you to share this information within your community.

Through the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program, the FCC will award $7.17 billion to eligible schools and libraries for the purchase of laptops and tablets, Wi-Fi hotspots, modems, routers, and broadband connections for off-campus use by students, school staff, and library patrons in need, and is available to support off-campus learning, such as homework and virtual learning as schools and libraries continue to respond to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

To help your Tribal entities through the application process, we launched the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program Module for Tribal Schools, Libraries, and Consortia in July. Trainings are posted on the Program’s Live Sessions webpage, which includes the recordings for the Emergency Connectivity Fund Overview Webinar for Tribal Applicants and the five office hour sessions for Tribal Applicants. We have also included a number of helpful resources about getting started and the application process below, such as this two-page Application Overview guide.

Status of the First ECF Application Filing Window

Last week, the FCC announced that 3,678 applicants received funding commitments totaling $1.203 billion in the first application window. Of this amount, approximately $1.17 billion will support schools, $23.97 million will be directed to libraries, and $12.03 million will support consortia of schools and libraries. The Emergency Connectivity Fund support
committed in the first wave will provide 3,081,131 devices and 774,115 broadband connections and help connect over 3.6 million students who, according to their schools, would otherwise lack devices, broadband access, or both. The FCC will continue to review applications submitted during the first application filing window and will announce additional funding commitments in coming weeks. Funding applications for the second filing window can be submitted now at https://www.emergencyconnectivityfund.org/.

Get Started

Applications must be filed in the ECF Portal. Setting up new user profiles in the ECF Portal can take several days to complete depending on a number of factors, including the number of entities joining a consortium and the availability of designated users to activate their accounts. Whether your schools or libraries wish to apply independently or if your Tribal government wishes to set up a consortium, the time is now to start setting up user profiles in the ECF Portal. Entities that already participate in the E-Rate Program will use their E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC) accounts to access the ECF Portal. To create an account in the ECF Portal or for assistance with your existing EPC account, call the Emergency Connectivity Fund Customer Support Center (CSC) at (800) 234-9781, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday.

This letter also includes Tribal-specific resources to assist your entities with the application process for the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program, including this helpful Application Overview guide. Please forward this information to the schools and libraries serving your community.

Sincerely,
Radha Sekar
Chief Executive Officer

Resources

FCC FAQS on Tribal-specific Topics

1.3 Q: Are Tribal libraries eligible?

A: Yes. Tribal libraries are eligible for support from the ECF program. Tribal libraries may demonstrate their eligibility by providing (1) documentation from an authorizing Tribal government entity (such as a charter or ordinance or letter from the Tribal Council) showing that the applicant has characteristics of a library, including regular hours, staff, and materials, or (2) a signed letter from a State library administrative agency. You do not need
to participate in the E-Rate Program in order to participate in the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program.

Please call the Emergency Connectivity Fund CSC at (800) 234-9781 for assistance with setting up ECF accounts for your entities to participate in the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program.

1.4 Q: Is a college library (e.g., a Tribal college library) eligible?

A: No. A library's eligibility depends on its funding as an independent entity. Only libraries whose budgets are completely separate from any schools (including, but not limited to, elementary and secondary schools, colleges, and universities) are eligible.

Getting Started for Tribal Governments

Before calling the Emergency Connectivity Fund CSC, download and review the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program Registration for Tribal Governments. It contains a helpful list of items you will need when you call the CSC.

The FCC's Application Overview for the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program is a helpful two-page resource guide to help prepare applicants for the overall application process.

The Funding Application (ECF FCC Form 471)

Applicants will use the ECF FCC Form 471 to apply for the Program through the ECF Portal. General training materials are available on the Emergency Connectivity Fund website, such as:

- The ECF FCC Form 471 Walkthrough (an online interactive video)
- The About the ECF FCC Form 471 webpage

Tribal Trainings

Previously Recorded Sessions

- **Recorded FCC Session:** Emergency Connectivity Fund Virtual Training and Listening Session for Tribal Leaders, Staff, and Outreach Partners, hosted by FCC Office of Native Affairs and Policy, July 15, 2021
- **Recorded USAC Sessions for Tribal Applicants:**
  - Emergency Connectivity Fund Overview Webinar for Tribal Applicants, June 17, 2021
  - Office Hours for Tribal Applicants, July 8, 2021
Office Hours for Tribal Applicants, July 22, 2021
Office Hours for Tribal Applicants, August 3, 2021
Office Hours for Tribal Applicants, August 11, 2021
Office Hours for Tribal Applicants, September 23, 2021 (Upload pending)

- **Recorded FCC Webinar:** Emergency Connectivity Fund Program Webinar on Frequently Asked Questions, August 3, 2021 - The FCC held a webinar to highlight frequently asked questions and answer questions submitted by potential applicants.

Save the Date for Upcoming Sessions

- **USAC Office Hours** are live sessions where applicants and service providers can ask questions and receive information about the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program. When registration information becomes available, it will be posted on the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program’s [Live Sessions](#) webpage. Register for upcoming office hours at the links below:
  - Office Hours, October 5, 2021, at 3 p.m. ET.
  - Office Hours for Tribal Applicants, October 12, 2021, at 4 p.m. ET.
- **Sign up** to stay informed about the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program and receive invitations for future training sessions.

### About the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program

On May 10, 2021, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted a Report and Order ([FCC 21-58](#)), establishing the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program and the applicable rules and processes. The [Emergency Connectivity Fund Program](#) will provide $7.17 billion in support to eligible schools and libraries for the purchase of eligible equipment and broadband connections during the COVID-19 pandemic for off-campus use by students, school staff, and library patrons who would otherwise lack connected devices and/or broadband connections sufficient to fully engage in remote learning.

**Need Help?**
Tribal partners may email general inquiries to the [USAC Tribal Liaison](#) for guidance and to connect with public resources, call centers, or program teams.