Emergency Connectivity Fund Program
Resources for Tribal Applicants

July 30, 2021

Dear Tribal Leader,

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) opened the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program’s 45-day application filing window on June 29, 2021 and it will close on August 13, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. ET.

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. To create an account in the ECF Portal, call the Emergency Connectivity Fund Customer Support Center (CSC) at (800) 234-9781. Setting up 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.

To help your Tribal entities, we have launched the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program Module for Tribal Schools, Libraries, and Consortia. We will host the next Office Hours for Tribal Applicants on August 3, 2021 at 4 p.m. ET - Register. During office hours, applicants are invited to ask our program experts questions.

This letter also includes additional Tribal-specific resources for your designated coordinators to review. Please feel free to 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), (2) documentation from an authorizing entity that shows that the applicant has characteristics of a library, including regular hours, staff, and materials, or (3) a signed letter from a state library agency.

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 for the first time, 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 for the first time.

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

The 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.

- The ECF FCC Form 471 Walkthrough (an online interactive video)
- Review the About the ECF FCC Form 471 webpage
- Sign up to stay informed about the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program and receive invitations for future training sessions.

Tribal Trainings: Recorded and Upcoming 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
  - The event will soon be posted on the FCC’s YouTube channel.
• **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

• **Save the Date:**
  - FCC Emergency Connectivity Fund Program Webinar on Frequently Asked Questions, August 3, 2021 at 2 p.m. ET
    The FCC will hold a webinar to highlight frequently asked questions and answer questions submitted by potential applicants. More information is available on the FCC's [Event](#) webpage.
  - USAC Office Hours for Tribal Applicants
    When registration information becomes available, it will be posted on the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program’s [Live Session](#) webpage.
    - Office Hours for Tribal Applicants, August 3, 2021 at 4 p.m. ET – [Register](#)
    - Office Hours for Tribal Applicants, August 11, 2021 at 4 p.m. ET

### 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.