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August 2025 Tribal Nation Newsletter

August 28, 2025 | [Universal Service Administrative Company \(USAC\)](#).



Tribal Nation News

Join USAC for the September 2025 Tribal Teleconference, in collaboration with the [Lifeline program](#), to learn about how existing consumers on Tribal lands can manage their Lifeline benefit and complete the annual recertification requirement. There will be time for Q&A. Please join us on **Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 4 p.m. ET** – [Register](#).

Notes from USAC's Tribal Liaison

E-Rate Fall Training Series

E-Rate Fall Training is a virtual webinar series that covers the E-Rate program from start to finish. You'll be given a general overview of how the program works, then move into the specifics of each step of the process. This includes which services are eligible, how to understand your Category 2 budget, how to complete an application, how to complete competitive bidding, and how to invoice in the E-Rate program. These sessions are for E-Rate program participants of all levels of experience and will include opportunities to ask questions.

Libraries interested in learning more about and participating in the E-Rate Program are encouraged to attend the E-Rate Fall Training series. Below is a brief description of what to expect during each session.

E-Rate Program Overview on **September 18, 2025, at 2 p.m. ET** – [Register](#).

This webinar will provide an overview of the E-Rate application process and explain basic program concepts. We will also highlight the recent FCC Form 470 updates and managing your Category Two budget. This webinar is intended for program participants of all levels and will include time for Q&A.

Pre-Commitment Process on **September 25, 2025, at 2 p.m. ET** – [Register](#).

This webinar will discuss the E-Rate Pre-Commitment process. This includes how to get started, competitive bidding, applying for funding, and Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) review. This webinar is intended for program participants of all levels and will include time for Q&A.

[Tribal Library E-Rate Advocacy Program \(T-LEAP\)](#)

Mark your calendars! USAC will be hosting the T-LEAP Fall Kick-Off and Info Session on **Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 3 p.m. ET**. During this webinar, USAC's Tribal Liaison and Tribal Library Advocates will share general information about the E-Rate program, including eligibility and program requirements, and how USAC can support your Tribal library in receiving E-Rate funding by participating in T-LEAP. Sign up for the webinar [here](#).

If you are a Tribal library or a Tribal college and university (TCU) library, you can now receive direct support in navigating the E-Rate application process, including one-on-one assistance in preparing applications, applying to the program, and receiving E-Rate support.

To learn more, please visit the [T-LEAP page](#) or contact the [USAC Tribal Liaison](#). Interested Tribal libraries can [sign up here](#) year-round.

[E-Rate](#)

Summer Deferral Period Ends September 5

The summer deferral contract period lasts from the Friday before Memorial Day through the Friday after Labor Day. For 2025, the summer deferral contract period began May 23, and will **end Friday, September 5**. If applicants were unable to respond during the deferral period, the form or request was placed in a deferred status until September 5, at which time USAC will continue its regular review process. USAC will make additional attempts to contact applicants and then will continue the review with the information provided. This may result in a reduction or denial of funding.

FCC Form 470 and Competitive Bidding Resources

Start your competitive bidding process the right way by viewing the [Competitive Bidding Infographic](#).

USAC has created new learning resources to help you through the FY2026 competitive bidding process, including the [How to File an FCC Form 470](#) learning module and the [FY2025+ FCC Form 470 Services Guiding Statements Table](#) on the USAC website. The learning module walks you through the steps for submitting Category One and Category Two bid requests for equipment and services and the new EPC calculations for Allowable Contract Date (ACD). The Guiding Statements Table provides a resource to help you determine which dropdown menus to select on the FCC Form 470 when requesting specific types of equipment and services.

Here are more resources on the FCC Form 470 and the competitive bidding process:

- [Step 1: Competitive Bidding](#) (Webpage)
- [FY2025+ FCC Form 470 Services Guiding Statements Table](#) (PDF)
- [FCC Form 470 Filing](#) (Webpage)
- Filing the FCC Form 470 and the Competitive Bidding Process [Webinar](#) (Video) and [webinar slides](#) (PDF)

- [How to File an FCC Form 470](#) (e-Learning module)
- Practice submitting FCC Form 470 on the [EPC Training Site](#) (Webpage)

Requesting Service Delivery Deadline Extensions for FY2024 Non-Recurring Services

The deadline for delivery and installation of non-recurring services (e.g., installations, equipment purchases) is September 30 following the close of the funding year.

This [Service Delivery Deadline](#) (SDD) can be extended for up to one year under certain circumstances through an extension request. In some cases, the extension will be automatically made based on the Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL) date or the revised FCDL (RFCDL) date.

Requesting Extensions

Service providers who are (1) unable to meet their service delivery deadline for reasons beyond their control, such as supply chain delays, or are (2) unwilling to complete delivery and installation because USAC withheld invoice payments on the services for more than 60 days can ask the affected applicants to request a one-year extension with USAC, which must be approved.

Applicants can request the one-year extension by completing and certifying an [FCC Form 500](#) (Funding Commitment Adjustment Request Form) on or before September 30, 2025, for FY2024 non-recurring services. If your service delivery deadline for a Funding Request Number (FRN) is approved and the deadline is extended to September 30, 2026, USAC will automatically extend the invoice filing deadline for that FRN to January 28, 2027. There is no need to submit an invoice deadline date (IDD) extension request for an extended FRN when submitting an SDD extension request. If you do submit an IDD extension request at the same time, it will count towards your one-time invoicing extension, and you will not be able to request a second IDD extension request in the future if you need it.

If, as a service provider, you are aware of the need to request an SDD extension, work with your customer (the applicant) to get the FCC Form 500 completed and certified no later than September 30, 2025.

Automatic Extensions

If USAC issues an FY2024 FCDL on or after March 1, 2025, the SDD is automatically extended for one year to September 30, 2026. This also applies to RFCDLs issued on or after March 1, 2025, for one of the following:

- Approval of an appeal for a funding request that originally denied or reduced funding,
- Approval of a Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) change, or
- Approval of a service or equipment substitution.

The FCDL or RFCDL contains the extended SDD date when it is issued. You can also find the SDD by searching for the FRN using the [E-Rate FRN Status Tool FY2016+](#).

To learn more about the E-Rate program, please review the [August 2025 E-Rate News Brief](#).

[Rural Health Care \(RHC\)](#)

FY2024 Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF) Annual Report Due September 30, 2025

Per FCC Order 19-78, to supplement the information collected from forms filed by the healthcare provider (HCP), the FCC requires HCF participants who received funding in Funding Year (FY) 2024 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025) to submit information to USAC about the telehealth applications used during the funding

year.

Who is Required to Submit the Annual Report?

All HCF Program participants, both individual and consortia, must submit an annual report for each funding year in which they received HCF Program support. For consortia that receive large upfront payments, reports are required for the life of the supported facility.

Beginning in FY2024, annual reports will be submitted in RHC Connect. Please use the [RHC Connect Annual Report User Guide](#) to assist you with your submission. Please visit the [Submit Annual Report page](#) for additional information.

Lifeline

Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) System Access Has Ended

As of August 26, 2025, access to the ACP system is no longer available. USAC has removed:

- ACP user access to the Affordable Connectivity Claims System (ACCS)
- ACP user access to the National Lifeline Accountability Database (NLAD)
- ACP reporting capabilities

Service providers who participated in both ACP and Lifeline will still have access to their Lifeline data in NLAD.

To submit downward revisions, email Form497@usac.org. For questions related to the removal of ACP system access, email LifelineProgram@usac.org with the subject line ACP System Access Removal.

One Portal Updated Terms and Conditions

Effective Tuesday, August 26, 2025, USAC has updated the [One Portal Terms and Conditions](#), which outlines who can access and use USAC systems and databases to administer Universal Service Fund (USF) programs. The updated policy also details USAC's rights to monitor activity. Service providers are encouraged to review the updated [One Portal Terms and Conditions](#) in full.

Lifeline Tribal Q3 Training: Manage Your Lifeline Benefit

Join Lifeline on **Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 4 p.m. ET** for the next Tribal training on how existing consumers on Tribal lands can manage their Lifeline benefit and complete the annual recertification requirement. [Register](#) for the quarterly webinar and review previous Tribal and Lifeline program trainings on our [Webinars](#) page.

High Cost

FCC Form 481 and Broadband Deployment Data Now Available to Tribal Officials

Tribal officials may now request access to the most recent [FCC Form 481](#) filings submitted by telecommunications carriers that serve Native American communities with financing from the High Cost program. To request access, email the USAC High Cost Division at Form481@usac.org to view deployment data for broadband networks supported by the Connect America Fund (CAF) in Indian Country through the [Connect America Fund Broadband Map](#) (CAF Map) and the new [Connect America Fund State Map](#) (CAF State Map).

To learn more about FCC Form 481 data available to Tribal officials, please read the [High Cost Announcement](#).

Key Dates and Trainings

E-Rate

2025 In-Person E-Rate Trainings:

- Tuesday, September 9, 2025, Denver, Colorado – [Register >](#)
- Tuesday, September 16, 2025, Washington DC – [Register >](#)
 - There is also a livestream option for this event.

Fall Training Series

- E-Rate Program Overview – Thursday, September 18, 2025, 2 p.m. ET – [Register >](#)
- Pre-Commitment Process – Thursday, September 25, 2025, 2 p.m. ET – [Register >](#)

Conference Schedule

- Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) Conference, September 17–20, 2025 in Albuquerque, New Mexico – [Event Link >](#)
- New England Library Association Conference, October 26–28, 2025 in Newport, Rhode Island – [Event Link >](#)

RHC | Telecom Invoicing Best Practices Webinar

Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 2 p.m. ET – [Register >](#)

RHC | FY2025 Program Update Webinar

Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 2 p.m. ET – [Register >](#)

Lifeline | September Monthly Webinar

Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 3 p.m. ET – [Register >](#)

Tribal Teleconferences:

- Tribal & Lifeline Teleconference – Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 4 p.m. ET – [Register >](#)
- T-LEAP Fall Kick-Off and Info Session – Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 3 p.m. ET – [Register >](#)
- Tribal and E-Rate Teleconference: E-Rate 101 and Pre-Commitment – Wednesday, October 14, 2025, at 4 p.m. ET – [Register >](#)

USF Program Technical Assistance

The USAC Customer Service Center (CSC) provides customer service for all USF programs. Visit the [Contact USAC](#) page to get in touch with specialized agents trained in the specifics of each program.

Questions or suggestions? Contact USAC's Tribal Liaison at TribalLiaison@usac.org.

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