

# E-Rate Tribal Libraries Pilot Program

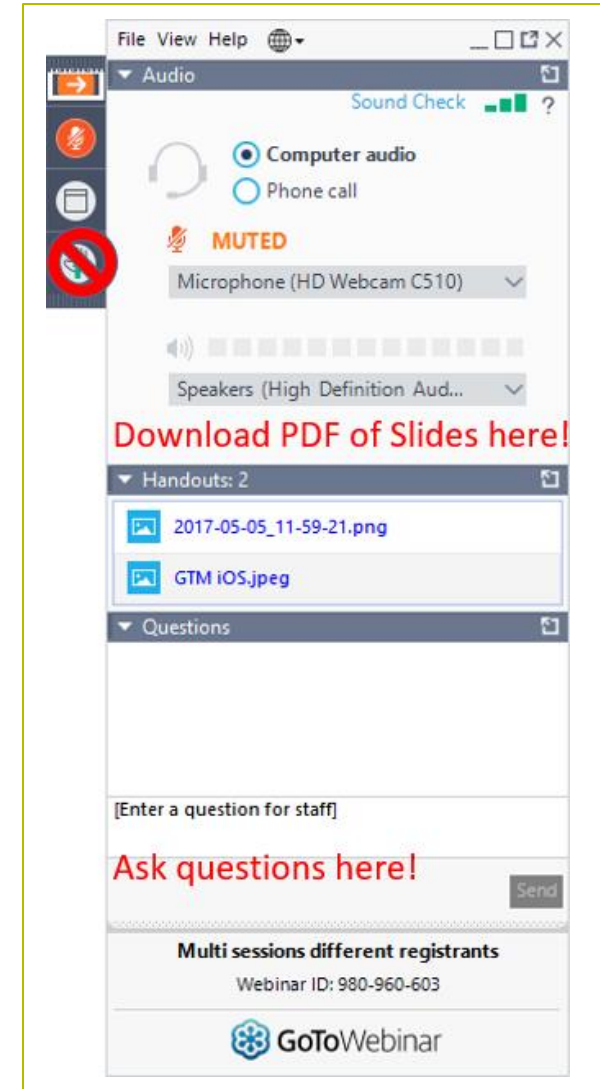
## Q & A Session



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# Housekeeping

- Use the “Audio” section of your control panel to select an audio source and connect to sound
  - Turn on your computer’s speakers, or
  - Use the call-in instructions in your confirmation email
- All participants are on mute.
- Submit questions at any time using the “Questions” box.



# E-Rate Tribal Libraries Pilot Program



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# E-Rate Tribal Library Pilot Program Overview

- One-on-one assistance in all aspects of preparing, applying, and receiving E-Rate support during the upcoming funding year.
- Trainings designed to help you apply for funding, including:
  - How to use the E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC), the online system for E-Rate.
  - Walk throughs of the competitive bidding and application processes, including timelines and information needed to complete competitive bidding and the application.
- Hands on support while completing the different E-Rate forms and processes needed to apply for and receive E-Rate funding.

# E-Rate Tribal Library Pilot Program Plan

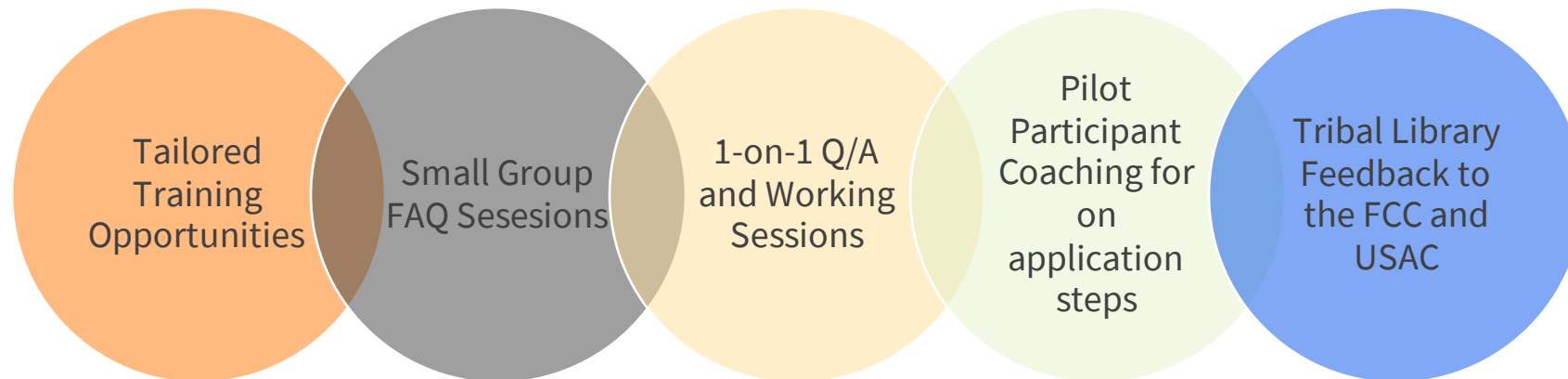
- Partner with a Tribal Library Advocate who will meet with your team one-on-one, provide resources and walk you through E-Rate processes
- Sessions will be led by E-Rate Tribal Library Advocates and scheduled according to your schedules and the 2024 funding cycle.
  - The number of sessions may depend on your needs, but you can expect both individual and group sessions each month.
- Receive resources and guidance to complete tasks like assessing your library's IT technology needs, determining your library's discount rate, and completing any other necessary registrations.
- Provide feedback, so that we can continue to simplify and enhance the E-Rate experience for all Tribal school and library participants.

# E-Rate Tribal Library Pilot Program – Tips for Success

- Tribal libraries that have support and participation from Tribal leadership, library staff and IT staff are more likely to complete the E-Rate funding process
- The beginning of the pilot program is most busy – identifying IT needs, completing the competitive bidding process and completing the application process
- USAC offers an E-Rate fall training series – we recommend joining these sessions to learn more about the program
- Most E-Rate applicants must perform a 28-day competitive bidding process before completing the application process

# E-Rate Tribal Library Pilot Program Plan

- You can expect a cohort-based learning/support model – A mix of one-on-one assistance combined with group sessions to collaborate with fellow Tribal library participants.



# E-Rate Program Eligibility



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# Tribal Libraries are Eligible for E-Rate Funding

- In January 2022, the FCC updated the definition of a library, and clarified that **Tribal libraries are eligible for support through the E-Rate program.**
  - Tribal libraries must be able to demonstrate that they have three basic characteristics of a library, including:
    - Regularly scheduled hours;
    - Staff; and
    - Materials for library users.
  - Tribal government entities can designate a library as a Tribal library (for example, through a Tribal Resolution). Tribal libraries may also be able to work with the state library administrative agency where they are located.
  - **Tribal College and University libraries** are now eligible for E-Rate support, so long as they also serve their communities as a public library and meet the above-mentioned basic characteristics of a library. but
  - Tribal libraries located in shared buildings/space with separate budgets from a Tribal a school are eligible.

**Questions?**

## More Information



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# Participate in the E-Rate Tribal Library Pilot Program

- To apply for the Tribal Libraries Pilot program, complete a [brief survey](#) to tell us more about your library.
- Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis
- Training begins in October, so we encourage you to submit the survey early, if you are interested.

# E-Rate Tribal Library Pilot Program Timeline

- October 2023: [Apply](#) for the pilot program
- October 2023: Attend [E-Rate Fall Training Series](#)
- October 2023: Pilot Program Begins
- November 2023: Identify library's IT needs, develop competitive bidding
- January 2024: Application window opens (exact date TBD)
- March 2024: Application window closes (exact date TBD)
- April – July 2024: Applicants may receive questions from application review teams
- July 2024: E-Rate funded service starts/Invoicing process available

# USAC Tribal Contacts and Additional Information

- Contact [TribalTraining@usac.org](mailto:TribalTraining@usac.org) for questions about this pilot program.
- The [USAC Tribal Liaison](#) can also help answer your questions and provide additional help. You can contact USAC's Tribal Liaison at [TribalLiaison@usac.org](mailto:TribalLiaison@usac.org).
- You can also call the Customer Service Center (CSC) at (888) 203-8100 Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET for help about E-Rate and the pilot program.
- You can visit: [www.fcc.gov/tribal-libraries](http://www.fcc.gov/tribal-libraries) to learn more about E-Rate.
- If you decide to participate, you will also have additional support from your E-Rate Tribal Library Advocates.

**Thank You!**

