E-Rate Tribal Libraries Pilot Program

Q & A Session
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
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
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.
  - Tribal libraries located in shared buildings/space with separate budgets from a Tribal school are eligible.
Questions?
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 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.

• 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 to learn more about E-Rate.

• If you decide to participate, you will also have additional support from your E-Rate Tribal Library Advocates.