

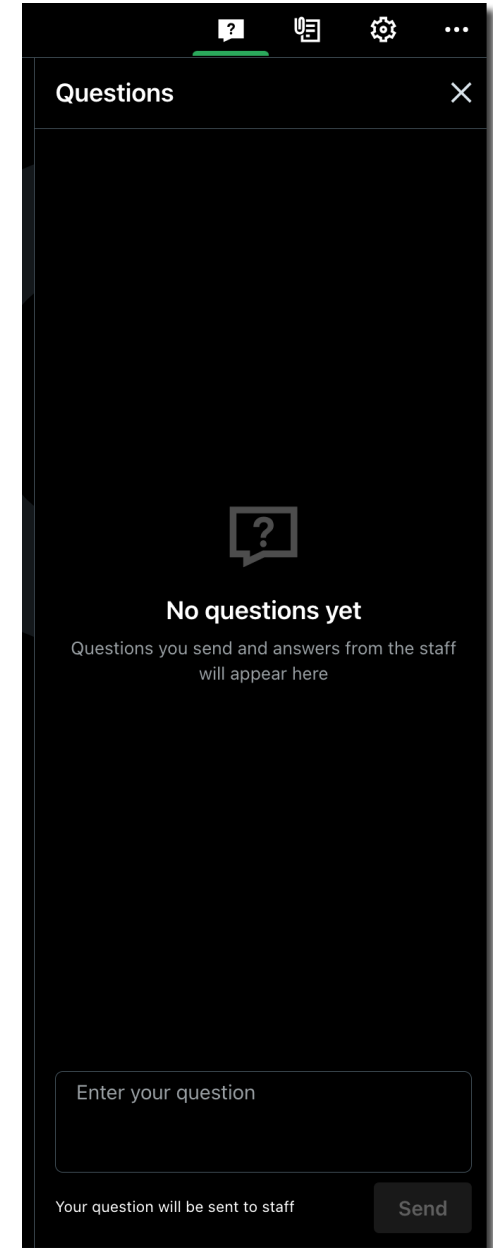
# E-Rate Tribal Teleconference

Tribal Training

July 14, 2026

# Housekeeping

- Audio is available through your computer's speakers
- Toggle Closed Captioning on or off using the GoToWebinar control panel
- The audience will remain on mute
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- The webinar recording and slides will be posted to [usac.org](https://usac.org) after today's session



# Meet Our Team



**Cedric Watkins**

Tribal Library Advocate and  
Analyst | E-Rate

Communicates the E-Rate  
program's objectives and policies  
with stakeholders.

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**Gem Shandiin Labarta**

Tribal Liaison | Shared Services

Provides clear, accurate, real-time  
support to Tribal stakeholders.

[Gem.labarta@usac.org](mailto:Gem.labarta@usac.org)

# E-Rate Customer Service Center (CSC)



**Call us at (888) 203-8100**

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET



**Create a customer service case in the**  
**[E-Rate Productivity Center \(EPC\):](#)**

1. Log in to EPC.
2. Select the **Contact Us** link from the upper right menu on the landing page.

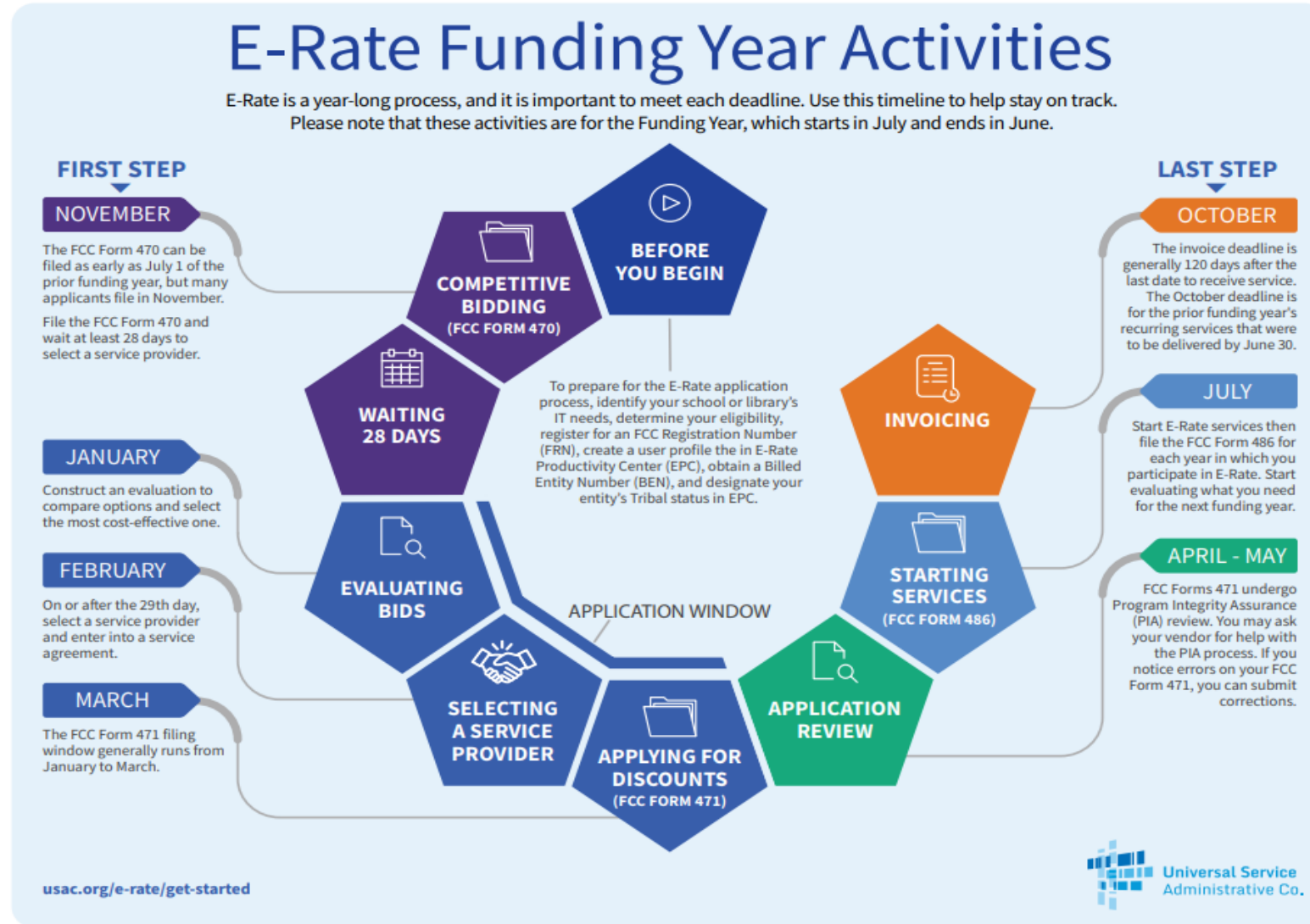
# Agenda

- Funding Year (FY) 2026 E-Rate Program Updates
- Application Lifecycle
- FCC Form 486 Filing (Starting Services)
- Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)
- Resources

# FY2026 E-Rate Program Updates

- Starting June 18, 2026, applicants and service providers can **request a one time 120-day extension** of the original invoice filing deadline, up to **15 days** after the original invoice filing deadline ([FCC 26-30](#)).
- Starting June 30, 2026, applicants can **modify their invoicing method** by submitting a RAL Modification Request during the review of their FCC Form 471 application **before** receiving a Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL)
  - **After receiving an FCDL**, applicants should submit an [FCC Form 500](#).
  - This change request must be submitted before any invoice is submitted for an FRN.
- Beginning August 2026, USAC will begin using SAM.gov banking information to pay invoices. Service providers and BEAR invoicing method participants **must** have:
  - An active SAM.gov account with a valid bank account associated
  - A Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) on their FCC Form 498
- FY2028
  - A Competitive Bidding Portal will be created to strengthen E-Rate program integrity **effective FY2028**.
  - The [FCC Form 486](#) will be sunset and rolled into FCC Form 471 in FY2028.

# Application Lifecycle



# File Your FCC Form 486

Applicants file the FCC Form 486 to:

- Notify USAC that **services have started** for the Funding Request Numbers (FRNs) listed on their FCC Form 471.
- Report the current status of their compliance with the **Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)**.
  - Note: Starting in FY2028, applicants will no longer be required to file the FCC Form 486. Instead, applicants will certify CIPA compliance directly on FCC Form 471. The requirement to file the FCC Form 486 is in effect for FY2026 and FY2027. See [Order, FCC 26-30](#).

# Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)

- Schools and libraries must enforce safety measures preventing minors from accessing obscene content on the Internet on any devices owned by the applicant.
- Schools and libraries must [maintain documentation](#) demonstrating CIPA compliance for all funding years.
  - In the first and second year of participation in the E-Rate program, you may show work **toward** CIPA compliance, but by the third year, your documentation must show full compliance.
  - Applicants must be compliant after the first year unless state, local, or other procurement laws prevent applicants from being compliant.
- To be CIPA compliant, you must have the following:
  - Internet Safety Policy
  - Technology Protection Measure/Public Notice
  - Public Notice and Hearing or Meeting

# Questions?



**Universal Service**  
Administrative Co.