BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

APPLICANTS: Applicants must first have an entity number and an E-rate Productivity Center (EPC) account.
SERVICE PROVIDERS: Service providers must first obtain a Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN /service provider 498 ID) by submitting FCC Form 498.

COMPETITIVE BIDDING
- Request services by submitting FCC Form 470 for bids
- Evaluate bids received
- WAIT AT LEAST 28 DAYS - The competitive bidding process must be open for at least 28 days
- SELECT A SERVICE PROVIDER - Sign a contract or arrange for tariffs or month-to-month services
- Review posted FCC Forms 470 and respond to applicant with bids for services requested

APPLYING FOR DISCOUNTS
- Seek discounts for services by submitting FCC Form 471 within the filing window
- Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) review
- Provide assistance to applicant as needed

SERVICES START
- Confirm to USAC that services have started and report CIPA status by submitting FCC Form 486*
- Certify compliance with program rules by submitting FCC Form 473

INVOICING
- Submit FCC Form 498 to receive an applicant 498 ID for direct BEAR payments
- If requesting reimbursement from USAC for services paid in full, submit FCC Form 472 (BEAR)
- If requesting reimbursement from USAC for approved discounts provided on services, submit FCC Form 474 (SPI)
- Receive BEAR reimbursement from USAC
- Receive SPI reimbursement from USAC
- COMPLETE INVOICE REVIEW - Correct errors and resubmit forms if necessary

METHOD #1:
- Evaluate bids received
- Provide assistance to applicant as needed
- Certify compliance with program rules by submitting FCC Form 473

METHOD #2:
- Review posted FCC Forms 470 and respond to applicant with bids for services requested
- Seek discounts for services by submitting FCC Form 471 within the filing window
- Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) review
- If requesting reimbursement from USAC for services paid in full, submit FCC Form 472 (BEAR)
- If requesting reimbursement from USAC for approved discounts provided on services, submit FCC Form 474 (SPI)
- Receive BEAR reimbursement from USAC
- Receive SPI reimbursement from USAC

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
- Website: The application process is broken down in detail for both applicants and service providers on the E-rate Program website (www.usac.org/e-rate).
- Glossary of Terms: Definitions for program terms and acronyms.
- *Consortium members report their CIPA status by submitting the FCC Form 479 to their consortium leader. The consortium leader then files the FCC Form 486.
- To adjust funding commitments and/or modify the dates for receipt of services after the FCDL is issued, file the FCC Form 500.