**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.

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**COMPETITIVE BIDDING**
- Request services by submitting FCC Form 470 for bids
- Evaluate bids received
- Select a service provider
- Sign a contract or arrange for tariffed or month-to-month services
- Review posted FCC Forms 470 and respond to applicant with bids for services requested
- Wait at least 28 days

**APPLYING FOR DISCOUNTS**
- Seek discounts for services by submitting FCC Form 471 within the filing window
- Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) review
- Determine invoice method
- During this time, work together to choose an invoicing method: BEAR or SPI
- Service Provider may give technical assistance as needed
- Receive funding commitment
- Receive Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL) from USAC

**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
- If requesting reimbursement from USAC for services paid in full, submit FCC Form 472 (BEAR)

**INVOICING**
- Submit FCC Form 498 to receive an applicant 498 ID for direct BEAR payments
- 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 Schools and Libraries Program website (www.usac.org/sl).
- 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.