E-Rate News Brief

August 26, 2025

Contents

E-Rate Tips

- **Summer Deferral Period Ends September 5**. Our summer deferral contact period is defined as the Friday before Memorial Day through the Friday after Labor Day. For 2025, the summer deferral contact period began May 23, and **will end Friday, September 5**. If participants were unable to respond during this period, the form or request was placed in a deferred status. Once the deferral period ends, USAC will continue its regular review process and, if it cannot make contact with applicants, it will continue reviewing with the information provided, which may result in a reduction or denial of funding.

- **Visit our updated webpages** including Category Two Budgets, EPC Administrative Window, Category Two FAQs, and Tribal FAQs.

Funding Year (FY) 2025 Commitments

FY2025. USAC released FY2025 Wave 18 Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLs) on August 21. As of August 25, FY2025 commitments total over $1.84 billion.
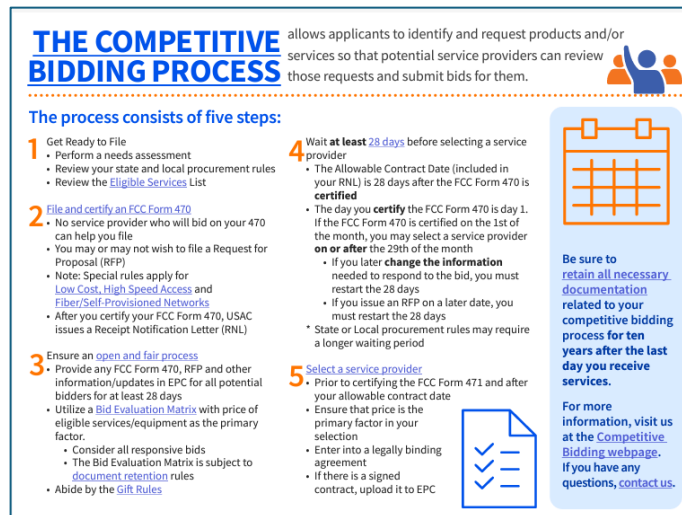
On the date that FCDLs are issued, you can access your FCDL notification from the **Notifications** section of your landing page in EPC.

You can also use the E-Rate Search Commitments Tool to look up prior funding year commitment data.

FCC Form 470 and Competitive Bidding Resources

USAC posted the How to File an FCC Form 470 learning module and interactive user guide along with the FY2025+ FCC Form 470 Services Guiding Statements Table on the USAC website to help you get started with your FY2026 competitive bidding process. The learning module walks you through the steps for submitting Category One and Category Two bid requests for equipment and services and the new EPC calculations for Allowable Contract Date (ACD). The guiding statements document provides a table to help you determine which dropdown menus to select on the FCC Form 470 when requesting specific types of equipment and services.

Start your competitive bidding process on the right foot by viewing the Competitive Bidding Infographic.

Here are more resources on the FCC Form 470 and the competitive bidding process:

- Step 1: Competitive Bidding webpage

- FY2025+ FCC Form 470 Services Guiding Statements Table

- FCC Form 470 Filing webpage

- Filing the FCC Form 470 and the Competitive Bidding Process Webinar (July 2025) and webinar slides

- How to File an FCC Form 470 e-learning module

- Practice submitting FCC Form 470 on the EPC Training Site

Requesting Service Delivery Deadline Extensions for FY2024 Non-Recurring Services (Other Than Special Construction)

The **deadline for delivery and installation of non-recurring services** (e.g., installations, equipment) is September 30 following the close of the funding year. **For FY2024, the deadline** for non-recurring services, other than special construction, **is Tuesday, September 30, 2025** (the deadline for FY2024 special construction requests was June 30, 2025, the end of the funding year).

This service delivery deadline (SDD) can be extended for up to one year under certain circumstances, through an extension request. In some cases, the extension will be automatically made based on the Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL) date or the revised FCDL (RFCDL) date.

Requesting Extensions

Service providers who are (1) unable to meet their service delivery deadline for reasons beyond their control or are (2) unwilling to complete delivery and installation because USAC withheld invoice payments on the services for more than 60 days, **can ask the affected applicants to request a one-year extension** with USAC, which must be approved.

Applicants can request the one-year extension by completing and certifying an FCC Form 500 (Funding Commitment Adjustment Request Form) **on or before September 30, 2025 for FY2024 non-recurring services**. If your service delivery deadline for a Funding Request Number (FRN) is approved and the deadline extended to September 30, 2026, USAC will automatically extend the invoice deadline for that FRN to January 28, 2027. There is **no need to submit an invoice deadline date (IDD) extension request** for an extended FRN when submitting an SDD extension request. If you do submit an IDD extension request at the same time, it will count towards your one-time invoicing extension, and you will not be able to request a second IDD extension request in the future if you need it.

If, as a service provider, you are aware of the need to request an SDD extension, work with your customer (the applicant) to have the FCC Form 500 completed and certified **no later than September 30, 2025**.

Automatic Extensions

If USAC issues an FY2024 FCDL on or after March 1, 2025, the SDD is automatically extended for one year to September 30, 2026. This also applies to RFCDLs issued on or after March 1, 2025, for one of the following:

- Approval of an appeal for a funding request that originally denied or reduced funding,

- Approval of a Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) change, or

- Approval of a service or equipment substitution.

The FCDL or RFCDL contains the extended SDD date when it is issued. You can also find the SDD by searching for the FRN using the E-Rate FRN Status Tool FY2016+.

USAC Aligns Service Provider Content Across Rural Health Care and E-Rate Web Pages

E-Rate's Service Provider Process has been updated to better support service provider participation in the Universal Service Fund (USF) programs including the Rural Health Care (RHC) program. USAC aligned the steps service providers must take to participate in both programs. These modifications include:

- Simplifying page content where process requirements are similar. For example, obtaining a 498 ID/SPIN is the same process for both programs.

- Incorporating links to additional information and expandable menus to reduce page scroll.

These updates ensure that titles and descriptions of the service provider enrollment process reflect the key activities within each process step.

Additionally, USAC created three new resources for the alignment:

- [E-Rate Service Provider Activities for Funding Year (FY) 2025](#)

- [Select an Invoicing Method in E-Rate](#)

- [Registering for a Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) Checklist for New Tribal Service Providers](#) (updated tip sheet for new Tribal service providers)

These content and resource updates are expected to simplify participation in either or both programs, especially for small and rural service providers who are new to the USF programs and working with USAC.

USAC to Transition to New Business Process Vendor in Q4 2025

As we look toward 2026, we are committed to strengthening the E-Rate experience for participants. **In the fourth quarter, USAC will be transitioning to a new vendor** to support E-Rate business process operations. All review activities, including Program Integrity Assurance (PIA), appeals, post-commitment requests, and invoice payments, will continue during the transition. The transition to the new vendor should be seamless for E-Rate participants.

USAC will reach out to E-Rate participants that have active applications, invoices, or post-commitment requests to share additional information about any changes related to the transition to the new vendor. We will continue to share information with affected participants by email, especially if the transition to the new vendor will affect those participants' open E-Rate activities. We expect that by the beginning of January 2026, all open forms and requests (including invoices, appeals, and post-commitment requests) will be assigned to new reviewers.

We appreciate the support and cooperation of the E-Rate community as we work with our new vendor on transitioning these services.

2025 Training and Outreach

USAC is coming to an event near you in 2025. Below are events that we will attend in the next few months, where we can answer your E-Rate questions and upcoming E-Rate [Webinars](#).

In-Person Training – Registration Open

E-Rate experts will provide training, discuss program updates, and answer questions from new and experienced participants. Registration for these two in-person training events is now open. For more information on these events and to register, visit the [In-Person E-Rate Training Events](#) or the [E-Rate Announcements](#) webpage.

- **E-Rate Training – Denver**: **September 9, 2025**, at the Lowry Conference Center located in the Community College of Aurora, Lowry Campus, 1061 Akron Way, Denver, Colorado.

- **E-Rate Training – Washington, DC**: **September 16, 2025**, at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) headquarters, 45 L Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. There will be an option to watch a livestream of this training.

Conferences

- **Association for Rural and Small Libraries** (ARSL) **Conference**, **September 17–20, 2025** in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Event Link.

- **New England Library Association Conference, October 26–28, 2025** in Newport, Rhode Island. Event Link.

Upcoming Webinars

Fall Training: E-Rate Program Overview
September 18, 2025
2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Eastern Time (ET)

Register

This webinar will provide an overview of the E-Rate application process and explain basic program concepts. We will also highlight the recent FCC Form 470 updates and managing your Category Two budget. This webinar is intended for program participants of all levels and will include a question-and-answer session.

Fall Training: Pre-Commitment Process
September 25, 2025
2 p.m. to 3 p.m. ET

Register

This webinar will discuss the E-Rate Pre-Commitment process. This includes how to get started, competitive bidding, applying for funding, and Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) review. This webinar is intended for program participants of all levels and will include a question-and-answer session.

Webinar Recordings

- **Open Data Webinar Part 1: Open Data Overview** (August 14, 2025). This webinar provides an overview of the E-Rate specific tools and datasets in Open Data. View webinar slides.

- **Open Data Webinar Part 2: Creating Reports and Visualizations** (August 21, 2025). This follow-up webinar to Part 1 dives more deeply into using E-Rate data tools including tangible examples on how to create custom reports and visuals. View webinar slides.