Universal Service Administrative Co.

E-Rate

E-Rate News Brief

November 19, 2026

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E-Rate Tips

- **FY2027 E-Rate Eligible Services List Released**. The FCC Wireline Competition Bureau released the FY2027 Eligible Services List (ESL) (DA 26-1220) on November 10, 2026. The FCC **made no changes to the previous ESL.**
- The **E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC) Administrative Window is now open**. Applicants should review and update their entity profile data ahead of the FY2027 FCC Form 471 application filing window including student counts. If you need to add a new school, library, or non-instructional facility (NIF) to your entity profile, please open a customer service case in EPC. View the How to Update Your E-Rate EPC Profile During the Administrative Window learning module to learn more.
- **Account Administrators should confirm EPC user permissions** for invoicing by selecting **Manage User Permissions** (applicants) on the entity summary tab or **Manage Service Provider User Permissions** (service providers) on the SPIN summary tab. Users without invoicing permissions in EPC will not have the option to invoice.
- **Checking an invoice's paid or unpaid status in EPC.** Go to **My Forms and Requests** and check the **FCC Form 472 Status** (applicant Billed Entity Applicant Reimbursement (BEAR) forms) or **FCC Form 474 Status** (service provider Service Provider Invoice (SPI) forms) column. If the status is **Processed**, all invoice lines on the invoice have been completed. If the status is **Certified**, some but not all invoice lines have been completed. You can also search and review your invoice line(s) status in EPC. Select **Reports** and **Invoice Line Summary Status** in EPC then enter your search criteria accordingly.

- **Invoicing Resources Available**. USAC has posted two infographics to help you submit E-Rate invoices. The E-Rate Prepare to Invoice infographic provides information on what forms applicants or service providers need to submit, filing deadlines, and EPC user permissions for invoicing. The E-Rate Tips for Speeding Up Disbursements infographic provides tips to help you get your disbursements including what to expect before, during, and after invoice submission, the USAC manual review process, and your role in the process.

- **Service Providers must file the FCC Form 473** in EPC **to certify compliance with E-Rate program rules**, which is required for each year you participate in E-Rate. Service providers must submit and certify an FY2026 FCC Form 473 (Service Provider Annual Certification (SPAC)) as soon as possible, if you have not already done so. (*See* 47 C.F.R. § 54.504(f)). USAC **cannot pay an invoice** from either an applicant (FCC Form 472) or a service provider (FCC Form 474) unless both the FCC Form 486 and the SPAC forms have been certified and approved. USAC is required to refer service providers who fail to submit the SPAC form and prevent applicants from being able to submit reimbursement requests to the FCC's Enforcement Bureau for further action. *See* 2025 SPAC Order. View **Module 2: File an FCC Form 473** in the SP Course 1: Submitting and Certifying Invoices in EPC learning module to see step-by-step instructions on submitting the SPAC form.

Funding Year (FY) 2026 Commitments

FY2026. USAC released FY2026 Wave 29 on November 12. As of November 18, FY2026 commitments total over $2.4 billion.

On the date that Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLs) are issued, you can access your FCDL notification letter 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.

What to Do if You Missed Your October Invoice or FCC Form 486 Filing Deadline

October 30, 2026 was the deadline for most program participants to:

- Submit an invoice for **FY2025 recurring services**.
- Request an invoice deadline extension for **FY2025** recurring services if the request was timely filed within 15 days of the original invoicing deadline.

Missed Invoice Filing Deadlines for FY2025
If you missed your invoice filing deadline and your deadline to request an invoice filing extension for FY2025 recurring services has exceeded 15 days, you must file a waiver request with the FCC before submitting your invoice to USAC to be processed. The USAC Appeals page provides information on how to submit appeals and waiver requests to the FCC. For untimely invoice filing extension requests, the FCC must grant your waiver request before USAC can extend the invoice filing deadline.

FCC rules provide for a one-time, 60-day grace period for applicants and service providers to submit new, corrected versions of invoices **that were timely filed before the invoice filing deadline but rejected by USAC on or after the invoicing deadline**. The 60-day period to resubmit a corrected invoice automatically starts the day you get a USAC decision denying or

reducing your reimbursement request. If your second submission is rejected, you may submit an appeal to USAC within 60 days of that decision.

You can verify whether your invoice filing deadline was extended by searching for your Funding Request Number(s) (FRNs) in EPC and clicking the **SDD/IDD History** tab. You can also use USAC's Open Data platform to confirm these deadlines. This data is in the E-Rate FRN Status Tool FY2016+. Please reference the video on how to use the tool to determine your deadlines.

Missed FCC Form 486 Deadline for FY2026
October 29, 2026 was the deadline for most program participants to certify an FCC Form 486 (Receipt of Service Confirmation and Children's Internet Protection Act Certification Form) for FY2026 for program participants that received an FCDL and have a service start date of July 1, 2026.

If you missed your deadline to file the FCC Form 486 for FY2026 services, please certify your form as soon as possible to minimize or avoid potential reductions in your funding commitments.

FY2026 FCC Form 486 Urgent Reminder Letters

USAC started sending FCC Form 486 Urgent Reminder Letters for FY2026 on October 30, 2026. These emails are sent to account administrators, and the contact person on the FCC Form 471, and the letter is posted and available in the entity's **News** tab in EPC.

As a reminder, if you received a positive funding commitment from USAC, the next step is to file an FCC Form 486 no later than 120 days after services have started. **If this date is missed, USAC will adjust the service start date** reported on the FCC Form 486 to the date 120 days before the certification date of the FCC Form 486 and will not issue disbursements for invoices for services delivered before the adjusted date.

To avoid missing your 120-day deadline, look for the **FCC Form 486 Urgent Reminder Letter**. The letter is sent based on the service start date reported on the FCC Form 471. Applicants then have 15 days from the date of the letter to certify an FCC Form 486 without a change in the service start date.

The letter will appear in the entity's **News** tab in EPC. You can also find it in the **Notifications** section of the entity's landing page.

To view the letter, follow these steps:

- Log in to EPC.
- From the **Notifications** section of your organization's landing page, choose **Notification Type** "FCC Form 486 120 Day Notification" and **Funding Year** "2026".
- In the right-hand column of each notification, click **View Notification**.

Applicants who receive this letter should certify their FCC Form 486 online **no later than 15 days after the date of the notification** to prevent adjustment of the service start date.

You can check if you have an approved or partially approved FCC Form 486 for your funding requests in the E-Rate FRN Status Tool FY2016+ in the "FCC Form 486 Status" column.

You can also use the new E-Rate Post Commitment Deadline Tool for applicants and service providers to **better track critical post-commitment deadlines** applicable to the E-Rate program.

Register Your Entity on SAM.gov and Obtain a UEI if You Invoice USAC

Beginning in September 2026, USAC started using SAM.gov banking information to pay all Universal Service Fund (USF) invoices. To continue receiving USF disbursements, all E-Rate service providers who use the FCC Form 474/SPI and applicants who use the FCC Form 472/BEAR for invoicing **must have an active SAM.gov account, a Unique Entity Identifier** (UEI) on their FCC Form 498, and **a valid bank account** associated with their SAM.gov account. This must be renewed on a yearly basis.

SPI and BEAR Filers Who Believe They Have an Active SAM.gov Account, UEI, and Linked Valid Bank Account Should:

1. Log into E-File (or EPC for BEAR filers) to confirm that the FCC Form 498 (Block 3, Line 24) includes a UEI.
2. Log into SAM.gov to confirm that the UEI is connected to a valid bank account—specifically, the bank account designated to accept USF disbursements, the SAM.gov account is active, and check the annual renewal due date.

If you are an applicant that uses the BEAR invoicing method and need instructions on how to file the FCC Form 498, please see the How to File the FCC Form 498 for Applicants learning module.

After completing these steps, E-Rate service providers and applicants that file SPIs and BEARs, will be set to continue receiving USF disbursements. Please remember, **you have to annually renew your SAM.gov account**. The renewal due date is included in your account on SAM.gov. You will not be able to receive USF disbursements if your SAM.gov account becomes inactive.

SPI and BEAR Filers Who Do Not Think They Have an Active SAM.gov Account, UEI, and Linked Valid Bank Account Should:

- Visit SAM.gov and follow the registration process through to completion. Visit the SAM.gov Learn How to Register Your Entity page to get started.
    - Once registered with SAM.gov, you will be automatically assigned a UEI.
    - Log into SAM.gov to link the UEI to a valid bank account—specifically, the bank account designated to accept USF disbursements.
- Log in to E-File (or EPC for BEAR filers) to add the UEI to the FCC Form 498 (Block 3, Line 24).

Because the SAM.gov registration process can take up to six weeks, USAC recommends starting as soon as possible.

For more information, visit USAC's SAM.gov UEI Requirement webpage.

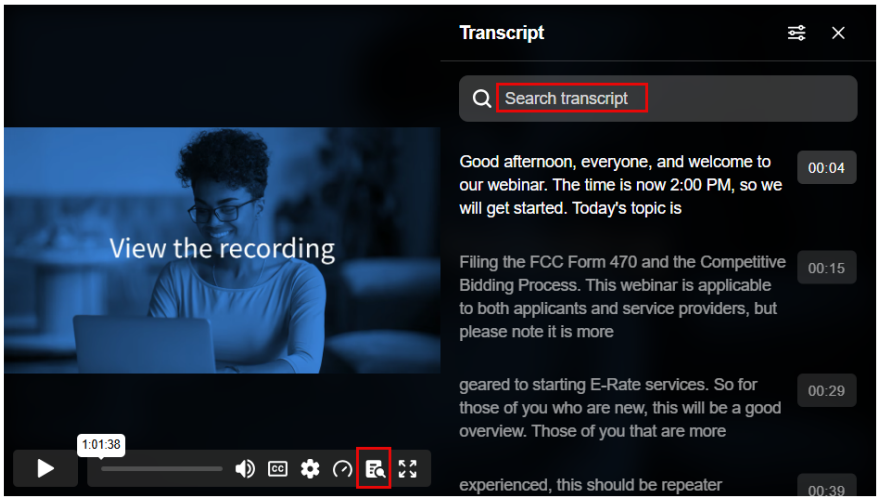
E-Rate Outreach and Training

Below we provide links to recent E-Rate Webinars that can assist you with preparations for the FY2027 FCC Form 471 application filing window that will open in January 2027. Additional webinar recordings and presentations can be found on the E-Rate Webinars page. USAC will resume its Application Window Training Series webinars in December 2026 to get applicants and service providers ready for the FY2027 application filing window.

Webinar Recordings

- **Tribal Library E-Rate Advocacy Program** (T-LEAP) **Kick-Off and Information Session** (October 27, 2026). In this webinar you will learn about the E-Rate program, including eligibility and program requirements, and how USAC can support your Tribal Library in receiving E-Rate funding by participating in T-LEAP. View webinar slides.
- **Eligible Services 101** (November 3, 2026). This webinar reviewed E-Rate eligible services and discussed the Eligible Services List (ESL). It is suitable for both applicants and service providers. After the presentation, we conducted a Q&A session to help participants better understand E-Rate service eligibility. View webinar slides.
- **November 2026 E-Rate and Tribal Teleconference** (November 10, 2026). USAC's Tribal Liaison and E-Rate staff held a November 2026 Tribal Teleconference. The E-Rate team reviewed program updates and provided information about Competitive Bidding and other timely information.

Did you know you can search USAC webinar transcripts? All you need to do is click the search transcript icon (document with a magnifying glass) in the viewer tools at the bottom of the recording window and use the search bar. You may receive an error saying "there was a problem loading the transcript." If so, close and reopen the webinar page. This usually happens the first time the page is opened.



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