

Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program

August 13, 2025

Deadline Reminders

Important form deadlines for the Pilot FCC Forms 470, 471, and 484 Part 2 are coming up.

August 18, 2025 – Deadline to submit the <u>Pilot FCC Form 470</u>. **September 15, 2025** – Deadline to submit the <u>Pilot FCC Form 471</u> and <u>Pilot FCC Form 484 Part 2</u>.

Be sure to reference the additional resources below as you finalize the submission of your forms:

- Pilot FCC Form 470 User Guide
- Pilot FCC Form 471 User Guide
- Pilot FCC Form 484 Part 2 User Guide
- FCC's Cybersecurity Pilot Program FAQs
- Previous Webinar Slides and Recordings

Please note: You cannot change the information on the Pilot FCC Form Part 2. Before you certify the form, please make sure that the information included is complete and accurate. You will be able to update your information as part of the annual reporting requirement.

In addition, Pilot participants who do not complete the Pilot FCC Form 471 and/or the Pilot FCC Form 484 Part 2 by the close of the Pilot FCC Form 471 application filing window, September 15, 2025, will be subject to removal from the Pilot and will not be eligible to receive Pilot Program funding. USAC will host trainings on post-commitment activities and invoicing in September.

Reminder About Filing an Appeal/Waiver Request

Any aggrieved party that wishes to appeal a USAC decision must first file an appeal with USAC to seek review before filing an appeal with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Appeals for the Pilot Program can be filed using the following email address: sldcyberinquiries@usac.org. Once USAC has made a decision on an appeal, the party may appeal USAC's decision to the FCC.

Parties seeking a waiver of FCC rules (e.g., waiver of a deadline) should file a waiver request directly with the FCC because USAC cannot waive FCC rules. Waiver requests must be submitted using the FCC's <u>Electronic Comment Filing System</u> (ECFS) and submitted under WC Docket No. 23-324. Please do not submit any confidential information or forms when submitting appeals or waiver requests to the FCC. The FCC Form 484 contains confidential information and should be delivered to the Secretary's Office pursuant to sections 0.457-0.459 of the FCC's rules and submitted as a confidential filing.

For more information, visit the <u>How do I submit a Confidential Filing? FAQ</u> on the FCC's website and <u>USAC's File an Appeal/Waiver Request</u> webpage.

Pilot FCC Form 471 Application Review

To ensure compliance with the FCC's rules, the Pilot FCC Form 471 will be subject to Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) application reviews similar to the reviews USAC conducts on the FCC Form 471 submitted in the E-Rate program. Pilot participants can expect USAC to reach out to the contact(s) listed on the FCC Form 471 to inquire about information provided on the form and/or request supporting documentation. To expedite the review of these forms, Pilot participants are encouraged to timely respond to such requests.

All applications undergo an initial review and a final review to ensure the completeness and accuracy of the information provided on the form. Pilot participants have 15 calendar days to respond to PIA questions. Participants can ask for more time if needed, but the timely response to all inquiries is encouraged to expedite the review process. Service provider(s) can assist Pilot participants with preparing responses to USAC's questions except for questions about the competitive bidding and service provider selection processes.

For more information, visit the Pilot FCC Form 471 webpage.

Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL)

Following review of the Pilot FCC Form(s) 471 and the submission of the Pilot FCC Form 484 Part 2, USAC will issue a Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL) to both the participant and the selected service provider(s) approving, modifying, or denying each funding request submitted. The FCDL will provide the amount of committed funding available for each request based on the Pilot participant's pre-discount three-year budget, will cover the three-year term of the Pilot Program, and will include a reminder to participants that funding is contingent upon full compliance with the FCC rules.

Starting Services

A Pilot participant may start services before receiving its FCDL and services may start as early as March 18, 2025, but the participant assumes the risk if the approved funding is less than what they have contracted to receive. The three-year funding period will be based on the date of the first FCDL for an FRN. If a Pilot participant needs to change the service start and end dates originally entered on the Pilot FCC Form 471 to align with the date of the first FCDL for an FRN, the participant will be able to do so using a post-commitment form, which will be made available at a later date.

To learn more, visit the <u>Starting Services</u> webpage.

Invoicing

Once a Pilot participant receives an FCDL committing funding for the requested eligible services and/or equipment, the participant or service provider may begin to submit requests for reimbursement (i.e., the Pilot FCC Form(s) 472/474) after the receipt or delivery of the services and/or equipment. Requests for reimbursement must be submitted through the Cybersecurity Pilot Program Portal within 90 days after the last date to receive equipment/service as set forth in the first FCDL for each FRN. Pilot participants or service providers may request a one-time extension of the invoice filing deadline, if the request is timely filed (i.e., before the invoice filing deadline date). See 47 CFR § 2008(d)-(e).

There are two methods of invoicing under the Pilot Program: (1) Billed Entity Applicant Reimbursement (BEAR) and (2) Service Provider Invoice (SPI). Consistent with the E-Rate program, the Pilot **participants** may select which invoicing method they prefer to use on a particular Funding Request Number (FRN). See 47 CFR § 54.2008(f). Pilot participants will make this selection on the Pilot FCC Form 471 for each FRN.

To learn more about the Pilot FCC Form 472 and Pilot FCC Form 474, visit the Pilot Program Invoicing webpage.

Key Dates

March 18, 2025: Pilot FCC Form 471 application filing window opened.

August 18, 2025: Deadline to timely submit the Pilot FCC Form 470.

September 15, 2025: Pilot FCC Form 471 application filing window closes and deadline to submit the Pilot FCC Form 484 Part 2.

Stay Connected

USAC will share information, resources, and training opportunities throughout the Pilot Program. If you received this email, you are signed up for ongoing program outreach.

If you have additional contacts who you would like to receive information about trainings, program updates, and deadline reminders – or if this email was forwarded to you – please <u>sign up for program outreach</u>. Please note that signing up for email outreach will not change your contact settings in the E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC) or the Cybersecurity Pilot Program portal.

Need Help? Contact Us!

Call us at (888) 203-8100 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. E.T. or submit a case in EPC.