

Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program

June 18, 2025

Pilot FCC Form 471

The Pilot FCC Form 471 application filing window opened on March 18, 2025, at 8 a.m. E.T. and will close on September 15, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. E.T. Pilot participants may request Pilot Program funding using the Pilot FCC Form 471 after they complete the competitive bidding process and select their service provider(s). All program participants must submit a Pilot FCC Form 471 during the window to receive Pilot Program funding for their eligible cybersecurity services and equipment. For more information, visit the [Pilot FCC Form 471 webpage](#).

USAC hosted a training on the Pilot FCC Form 471 on March 25, 2025 to walk participants through the process to request funding and highlight key features of the Pilot FCC Form 471. Visit the [Webinars webpage](#) to view the webinar recording and [slides](#).

Application Review Process

To ensure compliance with the FCC's rules, the Pilot FCC Form 471 will be subject to Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) 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 Pilot 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 Pilot FCC Form 471 applications undergo an initial review and a final review to ensure the completeness and accuracy of the information provided on the form. Questions from PIA reviewers may relate to one or more of the following topics:

- Eligibility of the services/equipment requested;
- Cost Effectiveness of the services/equipment requested;
- Ensuring that the requested funding does not exceed the participant's approved budget;
- Contracts; and
- The competitive bidding process.

Response Time, Additional Reviews, and Follow-Up

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.

To the extent the information requested during the application review process might include proprietary or sensitive commercial and financial information, Pilot participants and service providers may request confidential treatment of the information under section 0.459 of the FCC rules. See [FCC Instructions for Submitting Confidential Information](#).

Some applications may undergo additional review, such as a Selective Review. During a Selective Review, a PIA reviewer may request more detailed information from Pilot participants, which may include:

- Documentation of the competitive bidding and service provider selection processes;
- Documentation of the participant's ability to pay the non-discounted share of the costs of eligible equipment and services (the portion of the cost of eligible equipment and services not reimbursed by the program); and
- Proof that the participant has obtained necessary resources – e.g., hardware, software, staff training – that are not eligible for Pilot Program funding, but that must be in place to effectively use the requested equipment and services.

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.

Pilot participants should review this letter carefully, as it contains important information both for planning the start of the receipt of services and for submitting requests for reimbursement. If you disagree with one or more of the decisions in your FCDL, you can submit an [appeal](#) of the decision to USAC.

Starting Services

Pilot funds will be available as soon as a Pilot participant receives a FCDL from USAC and has successfully completed Part 2 of the Pilot FCC Form 484 application. Unlike the E-Rate program, the Pilot Program does not utilize specific funding years, so participants need not wait until a specific date (e.g., July 1, 2025) to purchase cybersecurity equipment and services, provided they have otherwise completed the necessary requirements. Pilot participants and service providers will be able to request reimbursement after the receipt or delivery of eligible cybersecurity services and/or equipment through the Pilot Program.

The earliest service delivery start date for the Pilot Program is March 18, 2025, i.e., the first day of the Pilot FCC Form 471 application filing window. The last date to receive service is three years from the date of the first FCDL for each funding request number (FRN). See 47 CFR §§ 54.2001(c) and 54.2008(d).

For month-to-month services, Pilot participants should use their actual service delivery start and end dates on the Pilot FCC Form 471. For contracted services, Pilot participants should use their contract start and end dates on the form.

Key Dates

January 17, 2025: Pilot FCC Form 470 and Pilot FCC Form 484 Part 2 became available in the Cybersecurity Pilot Program portal.

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

July 1, 2025: Last date to voluntarily withdraw from the Pilot Program.

August 18, 2025: Deadline to 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 [sign up for program outreach](#). 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.