



# Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program

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September 10, 2025

## Deadline Reminder

**September 15, 2025** is the deadline to submit the [Pilot FCC Form 471](#) and [Pilot FCC Form 484 Part 2](#). Please be sure to timely submit your forms. Pilot participants who do not complete the Pilot FCC Form 471 and/or the Pilot FCC Form 484 Part 2 by September 15, 2025, will be subject to removal from the Pilot and will not be eligible to receive Pilot Program funding.

The E-Rate Customer Service Center (CSC) is available (888) 203-8100 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. E.T. to help answer your questions. On September 15, 2025, they will be open until 12 a.m. E.T. to provide extra assistance to Pilot Program participants.

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

- [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](#)

## Introducing the Pilot FCC Form 488 (Post-Commitment Change Request Form)

After your Pilot FCC Form 471 is certified and submitted, and beginning this fall, Pilot Program participants will have the opportunity to update certain information using the Post-Commitment Change Request Form, also known as the Pilot FCC Form 488. Below are some examples of when you might use the Pilot FCC Form 488:

- Change the invoicing method;
- Change service start/end dates;
- Cancel Funding Request Number (FRN) line items;
- Modify commitment amounts for FRN line items; and
- Initiate a site and/or service substitution.

USAC will provide information on when the Pilot FCC Form 488 will be available, as well as provide trainings and training materials to help participants complete the form, if they choose to use it.

## Invoicing

Once a Pilot participant receives a Funding Commitment Decision Letter (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 based on the date of the first FCDL for each FRN. Pilot participants or service providers may request a one-time extension of the invoice filing deadline, which will be granted if the request is timely filed (i.e., before the invoice filing deadline date). See 47 CFR § 54.2008(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, Pilot participants select which invoicing method they prefer to use for a particular Funding Request Number (FRN). See 47 CFR § 54.2008(f). Pilot participants make this selection on the Pilot FCC Form 471 for each FRN. In the event that the invoicing mode needs to be modified, the Pilot participants will be able to make this change on the Pilot FCC Form 488.

To learn more about the Pilot FCC Form 472 and Pilot FCC Form 474, visit the Pilot Program [Invoicing](#) webpage.

## Frequently Asked Questions

Please see recently updated [FAQs](#) related to what start and end dates to use on the Pilot FCC Form 471 and how to calculate the invoice filing deadline.

### **\*1.5 Q: When will Pilot funding be available to purchase cybersecurity equipment and services? Will funds be available beginning July 1, 2025, like in the E-Rate program?**

A: Pilot funds will be available as soon as a Pilot participant receives a Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL) from USAC, after they have successfully completed the Pilot FCC Form 471 and submitted Part 2 of the FCC Form 484 application. Unlike the E-Rate program, the Pilot 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.

For purposes of invoicing and calculating the invoice filing deadline, and because the Pilot Program makes funding available to participants for three years from the date of the first FCDL for each FRN, the earliest date to start services for the Pilot Program is March 18, 2025 (i.e., the first day of the FCC Form 471 application filing window). The last date to receive service (which may be different than the contracted service end date) is three years from the date of the first FCDL for each funding request number (FRN). See 47 CFR §§ 54.2001(c) (specifying the duration of the Pilot Program funding period) and 54.2008(d) (noting the invoice filing deadline). See also FAQs 1.5a, 1.8, and 4.3.

### **\*1.5a Q: What start/end dates should I use when preparing the FCC Form 471? How do I calculate my invoice filing deadline?**

A: For month-to-month services, Pilot participants should use their actual service delivery start and end dates on the form. For contracted services, Pilot participants should use their contracted service start and end dates on the form, which may be different than the date the contract was signed.

For purposes of invoicing and calculating the invoice filing deadline, and because the Pilot Program makes funding available to participants for three years from the date of the first FCDL for each FRN, the earliest date to start services for the Pilot Program is March 18, 2025 (i.e., the first day of the FCC Form 471 application filing window). The last date to receive service (which may be different than the contracted service end date) is three years from the date of the first FCDL for each funding request number (FRN). See 47 CFR §§ 54.2001(c) (specifying the duration of the Pilot Program funding period) and 54.2008(d) (noting the invoice filing deadline).

For example, if a participant enters into a contract with a service provider for services to be provided from April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2028, the service start date would be April 1, 2025 and the service end date would be March 31, 2028. The participant would specify these dates on the Pilot FCC Form 471 as the contracted service start and end dates. If the first FCDL for this FRN is issued on October 6, 2025, the service end date remains March 31, 2028, but the “last date to receive service” for purposes of calculating the invoice filing deadline would be October 6, 2028, and the invoice filing deadline for this FRN would be January 4, 2029.

If, on the other hand, the service start date for this FRN was November 7, 2025, (i.e., after October 6, 2025, the date the first FCDL is issued for the FRN), the “last date to receive service” for purposes of calculating the invoice filing deadline would be November 7, 2028, and the invoice filing deadline would be February 5, 2029.

**\*1.8 Q: When is the service start and end date for the Pilot Program?**

A: The earliest date to start services for the Pilot Program is March 18, 2025 (i.e., the first day of the FCC Form 471 application filing window), and the last date to receive service for each funding request number (FRN) (which may be different than the contracted service end date) is three years from the date of the first Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL) issued for each funding request. See FAQs 1.5 1.5a, and 4.3.

**\*4.3 Q: Can funds be used retroactively to pay for services and equipment that were purchased and used last year?**

A: No. Pilot Program funds must be used prospectively, during the three-year Pilot period. The earliest date to start services for the Pilot Program is March 18, 2025 (i.e., the date the FCC Form 471 application filing window opens), and the last date to receive service for each funding request number (FRN) (which may be different than the contracted service end date) is three years from the date of the first Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL) issued for each funding request. See 47 CFR §§ 54.2001(c) (specifying the duration of the Pilot Program funding period) and 54.2008(d) (noting the invoice filing deadline). See also FAQs 1.5, 1.5a, and 1.8.

## 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 [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.