



Monthly E-Rate Tribal e-Newsletter

November 5, 2021

Dear Tribal Partner,

Happy National Native American Heritage Month!

November also marks the start of the Schools and Libraries (E-rate) program training season for the upcoming funding year.

Last week, USAC announced it will offer a series of online sessions for E-rate program participants, including Tribal applicants. This year's Tribal Training will include an overview of the E-rate program with an opportunity for Tribal applicants to ask questions.

We encourage Tribal applicants to attend the general E-rate Training sessions held from Tuesday, November 16, 2021 through Thursday, November 18, 2021 to receive more in-depth information about the E-rate program.

Please save the date for a Post-Training Series FAQ Session for Tribal Applicants scheduled on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 4 p.m. ET during the monthly E-rate Tribal Teleconference. More information about this session will be announced in the future.

Check the [E-rate Tribal Training page](#) for the latest information. If you are unable to attend the live session, a recording will be available using the registration link.

E-rate Tribal Training

E-rate Program Overview for Tribal Schools and Libraries

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

4 p.m. ET

[Register](#)

In this session, we will present an overview of the E-rate program. This session will cover general topics, such as the application process, the competitive bidding requirements,

important program terms, eligibility, and program discounts. Additionally, we will review specific items of interest to Tribal participants, including the Tribal designation box in the EPC entity profile, and state/Tribal matching funds.

- **Recommended for:** Applicants and service providers
- **E-rate experience level:** Beginner

E-rate Fall Training Series

Our three-day training event will include two one-hour webinars daily, starting at 1 p.m. ET running through 4 p.m. ET, with one-hour breaks between training sessions.

Day 1: Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Session 1: E-rate Program Overview

1 p.m. ET

[Register](#)

During this webinar, we will provide a high-level overview of the application process from beginning to end and explain basic program concepts for applicants and service providers. After the presentation, we will conduct a Q&A session.

- **Recommended for:** Applicants and service providers
- **E-rate experience level:** Beginner

Session 2: E-rate Pre-Commitment Process

3 p.m. ET

[Register](#)

During this webinar, we will discuss the E-rate Pre-Commitment Process (getting started, competitive bidding, applying for discounts, and Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) review). After the presentation, we will conduct a Q&A session.

- **Recommended for:** Applicants and service providers
- **E-rate experience level:** Beginner

Day 2: Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Session 3: Eligible Services 101

1 p.m. ET

[Register](#)

During this webinar, we will provide an overview of E-rate eligible services. After the presentation, we will conduct a Q&A session.

- **Recommended for:** Applicants and service providers
- **E-rate experience level:** Beginner

Session 4: Category Two (C2) Budgets

3 p.m. ET

[Register](#)

During this webinar, we will discuss Category Two (C2) budgets. We will provide an overview of C2 budgets and C2 budget guidance for Funding Year (FY) 2022. After the presentation, we will conduct a Q&A session.

C2 services include equipment and services needed to provide broadband connectivity within schools and libraries.

- **Recommended for:** Applicants and service providers
- **E-rate experience level:** All experience levels

Day 3: Thursday, November 18, 2021

Session 5: EPC Administrative Window

1 p.m. ET

[Register](#)

During this webinar, we will discuss the administrative window – the period during which applicants can make updates to their profile information in the E-rate Productivity Center (EPC) to prepare for the upcoming FCC Form 471 application filing window for Funding Year (FY) 2022. After the presentation, we will conduct a Q&A session.

Please note that the administrative window opened Tuesday, October 26, 2021 and will close – and the applicant profiles will be locked – shortly before the FY2022 application filing window opens early in 2022.

- **Recommended for:** Applicants
- **E-rate experience level:** All experience levels

Session 6: E-rate Post-Commitment Process

3 p.m. ET

[Register](#)

During this webinar, we will discuss the E-rate Post-Commitment Process (starting services and invoicing) and other post-commitment activities (service substitutions, appeals, and more). After the presentation, we will conduct a Q&A session.

- **Recommended for:** Applicants and service providers
- **E-rate experience level:** All experience levels

More Upcoming Training

Supply Chain Audit Webinar

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

2 p.m. ET

[Register](#)

USAC will host a [supply chain audit webinar](#). This session will be held on Tuesday, November 9, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. ET. Participants will have the opportunity to ask any questions they have that relate to the supply chain audit process. The webinar will cover the following topics:

- Program participant responsibilities
- USAC's role and responsibilities
- Our audit approach
- How to prepare for these audits

The webinar is free to anyone; registration is required.

The supply chain certification process is ever-evolving, and it is the responsibility of participating providers to stay up-to-date on this topic and to comply with the supply chain rules.

For additional supply chain details and background, please review the [Supply Chain](#) webpage.

Save the Date for E-rate Tribal Training

Post-Training Series FAQ Session for Tribal Applicants

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

4 p.m. ET

Registration: To Be Announced

This FAQ session will provide an opportunity for Tribal applicants to ask the USAC E-rate team questions generated during the E-rate Fall Training Series.

Important Resources

The E-rate Program [News Brief](#) returns as a monthly publication. During the busier times of the E-rate calendar, the E-rate Brief plans to publish additional issues and special editions to provide important program information and deadline reminders. An explanation is available in the [October 22, 2021](#) News Brief.

News Brief: [October 27, 2021](#)

- Registration now open for Fall 2021 Training
- Tribal E-rate Training
- Supply Chain Guidance and Training

News Brief: [October 22, 2021](#)

- E-rate News Brief moves to monthly publication schedule
- Invoicing reminders
- **FCC Form 486 deadline reminders**
- Hurricane Ida relief
- Special construction service delivery deadline extension
- Use Open Data to confirm your invoice deadline date (IDD) and service delivery deadline (SDD)
- Funding Year (FY) 2022 student enrollment numbers
 - Category Two Budget Reminder
- **EPC administrative window opens Tuesday October, 26, 2021**
 - The EPC administrative window is the period during which applicants can make updates to their entity profile information in E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC) to prepare for the upcoming Funding Year 2022 FCC Form 471 application filing window.
 - The administrative window opened Tuesday, October 26, 2021 and will close – and the applicant profiles will be locked – shortly before the FY2022 application filing window opens early in 2022.
- New Supply Chain guidance
- Feedback requested on IT enhancements

E-rate Program Technical Assistance

All USAC customer support centers remain open, including the Client Service Bureau (CSB). Please be patient if you experience longer than usual wait times with our customer service teams as circumstances continue to change.

You have two options for requesting assistance:

- Open a customer service case in [EPC](#); or

Call the Client Service Bureau (CSB) at (888) 203-8100. CSB is operational Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. ET.

Questions or Suggestions?

Contact USAC Tribal Liaison, **Kraynal Alfred**, at TribalTraining@usac.org or (202) 572-5733.