



E-Rate Tribal e-Newsletter

April 11, 2022

Dear Tribal Partner,

Last Tuesday, the E-Rate program conducted the [E-Rate Information Session for Tribal Libraries Applications](#) webinar, which was the first of five sessions scheduled to support applicants during the extended filing window for new Tribal Libraries. Remember: Applications with at least one **new** Tribal library listed as recipient of service will have until **Thursday, May 26, 2022** at 11:59:59 p.m. ET to submit and certify the FCC Form 471. **Thursday, April 28, 2022** is the last date for these applicants to submit and certify an FCC Form 470 and still wait the required 28 days before submitting and certifying the FCC Form 471 by the May 26 filing deadline. The training schedule for FY2022 Extended E-Rate Training Series for New Tribal Libraries is available below in this email. Training-related questions can be sent to TribalTraining@usac.org.

In addition, several programs across USAC will be affected by SAM.gov's transition from DUNS to UEI in the immediate future. USAC sent an email last week, but we wanted to make sure you received the message in case you need to take action. A copy of the message is available in **Other Announcements section** below.

Finally, we are also helping to amplify an important announcement about a third application filing window for the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program (see below for more details). If you are unfamiliar with the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program, we encourage you to watch the [Tribal Schools, Libraries, and Consortia Module](#) and to check the Program's [Live Sessions](#) page regularly for new training opportunities. If you need help getting started or have questions, you can reach out to the **Emergency Connectivity Fund Customer Support Center** (CSC) at (800) 234-9781.

Other Announcements:

Emergency Connectivity Fund Program

Third Emergency Connectivity Fund Application Filing Window Announced

The third application filing window will open on Thursday, April 28, 2022 and close on Friday, May 13, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. ET. During the third window, schools and libraries will be able to request Emergency Connectivity Fund Program support for eligible equipment and up to 12 months of services that will be

received or delivered between July 1, 2022 and December 31, 2023 for off-campus use by students, school staff, and library patrons with unmet needs. Please see the Public Notice ([DA 22-309](#)) for additional information about the third application filing window, the service delivery date, and invoice filing deadline applicable to equipment, other non-recurring service, and recurring service requests submitted during this filing window.

SAM.gov Moves from DUNS to UEI

On April 6, 2022, the FCC released [Public Notice DA 22-371](#), which announces the transition from the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number to the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) effective April 4, 2022.

At this time, only entities that receive direct payments or disbursements from the FCC must obtain a UEI and complete full entity registration in SAM.gov. This includes the COVID-19 Telehealth Program, Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) and Emergency Connectivity Fund Program (ECF). Most organizations who participate in these programs should have already registered with SAM.gov to complete their registration with USAC.

For Universal Service Fund (USF) recipients (High Cost, E-Rate, Rural Health Care, and Lifeline), program payments will continue as of April 4, 2022 without full entity SAM.gov registration; however, these programs will require full entity registration at a later date. Additionally, USAC will begin collecting UEIs on program forms later this year. More information will be forthcoming.

Next Steps

If you are registered to participate in the COVID-19 Telehealth Program, ACP, or ECF, you already have a UEI and do not need to update your registration in SAM.gov. No further action is required; USAC will reach out directly to participants if needed.

If you participate in one of the USF programs, you are not required to register in SAM.gov at this time, but USAC recommends initiating this process as it will be required at a later date.

If you need help obtaining a UEI or have additional questions, please visit the [Contact USAC](#) page to contact USAC's Customer Service Center (CSC) or visit [SAM.gov](#) for additional information on how to obtain a UEI number or register your entity.

E-Rate Program

FY2022 Extended E-Rate Training Series for New Tribal Libraries

The FY2022 Extended E-Rate Training Series for New Tribal Libraries is underway! Join our free trainings to hear directly from the E-Rate program's expert staff. Registration is open for our next training on establishing a consortium.

Upcoming Training

Session 2: Establish a Consortium

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

4 p.m. ET

[**Register Now**](#)

Overview: This session provides an overview of the different roles and responsibilities for the consortium leader and members. After the presentation, we will conduct a live Q&A session.

In advance of the training, you may email questions to TribalTraining@usac.org.

We recommend that you also review:

- Learn more about [Consortia](#)

Session 3: Office Hours for Tribal E-Rate Applicants

Tuesday, April 19, 2022

4 p.m. ET

[**Register Now**](#)

Overview: This session provides an opportunity for Tribal E-Rate applicants and consultants to ask the USAC E-Rate team questions regarding the FY2022 E-Rate competitive bidding and funding application process and the recent E-Rate Tribal training sessions.

In advance of the training, you may email questions to TribalTraining@usac.org.

Session 4: Office Hours for Tribal E-Rate Applicants

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

4 p.m. ET

[**Register Now**](#)

Overview: This session provides an opportunity for Tribal E-Rate applicants and consultants to ask the USAC E-Rate team questions regarding the FY2022 E-Rate funding application process and the recent E-Rate Tribal training sessions.

In advance of the training, you may email questions to TribalTraining@usac.org.

Recorded Sessions

Session 1: E-Rate Information Session for Tribal Library Applicants

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

[Watch a Recording](#)

Overview: This session provides an overview of the E-Rate program and covers general topics such as the application process, the competitive bidding requirements, important program terms, eligibility, and program discounts. We will provide an introductory overview of eligible equipment and services and walk through three training samples for FCC Forms 470 and 471. Additionally, we will focus on the recently adopted Federal Communications Commission (FCC) order that amended the definition of library in the FCC's rules to clarify that Tribal libraries are eligible for support through the E-Rate program.

In advance of the training, you may email questions to TribalTraining@usac.org.

We recommend that you also review:

- Learn how to [Get Started](#).
- Explore the [Application Process](#) and [Eligible Services](#).
- Download the [Registration Checklist for New Tribal Libraries](#) (PDF).
- Learn about the [FCC Form 470](#)
 - Review the steps in the application process:
 - Step 1: [Competitive Bidding](#).
 - Step 2: [Selecting a Service Provider](#).
 - Resources
 - Training Sample 1: [FCC Form 470](#).
 - [Instructional video series for FCC Form 470](#).
 - [FCC Form 470 Filing EPC System Guide FY2022](#) (PDF).
 - [FCC Form 470 Services Guiding Statements Reference Table \(FY2022\)](#) (PDF).
- Learn about the [FCC Form 471](#).
 - Review the steps in the application process:
 - Step 3: [Applying for Discounts](#)
 - Resources
 - Download the [E-Rate Program FCC Form 471 Submission Checklist](#)
 - Training Sample 2: [FCC Form 471 \(Category 1\)](#)
 - Training Sample 3: [FCC Form 471 \(Category 2\)](#)
 - Follow the step-by-step guides offered in the [instructional video series for FCC Form 471 and creating a contract record](#).

Resources

E-Rate Program News Brief

The E-Rate program [News Brief](#) is a monthly publication. During the busier times of the E-Rate calendar, additional issues and special editions will be published to provide important program information and deadline reminders. We encourage you to [subscribe](#) to the E-Rate program News Brief for helpful information and timely announcements. Below is a link to the recent E-Rate News Brief.

News Brief: March 17, 2022

- FCC Form 471 Filing Window Extension for New Tribal Libraries
- Extended CSC Hours for FY2022 Application Filing Window
- Last-Minute Filing Tips for the FY2022 FCC Form 471 Application
- E-Rate Program Document Retention Requirements
- E-Rate Tribal Training Recordings Available

E-Rate Program Technical Assistance

The USAC Customer Service Center (CSC) provides customer service for the Universal Service Fund (USF) programs, including the E-Rate program, with specialized agents trained to answer your E-Rate program questions.

You have two options for requesting assistance:

- Call the CSC at (888) 203-8100. CSC is operational Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. ET; or
- Open a customer service case in the [E-Rate Productivity Center \(EPC\)](#), if or once you are a registered user.

Questions or Suggestions?

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