E-Rate Tribal e-Newsletter

May 11, 2022

Dear Tribal Partner,

We continue to support applicants during the extended FY2022 E-Rate application filing window for new Tribal library applicants and for **applications that include at least one new Tribal library listed as recipient of service.**

A critical deadline recently passed: The required 28-day (minimum) competitive bidding process should have been initiated by filing the FCC Form 470 on or before April 28 in order for applicants to wait at least 28 days before submitting and certifying an FCC Form 471 before the window closes on May 26, 2022 at 11:59:59 p.m. ET.

Next Steps

While you wait for the competitive bidding process to conclude, we recommend that you review some of the FCC Form 471 training materials. As a reminder, the FCC Form 471 is the funding application form that provides USAC with information about the services and/or equipment you are requesting and the entities that will receive the services and/or equipment during the upcoming funding year.

We encourage you to review the following FCC Form 471 materials as you prepare to file and certify the form.

- 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.

Register for the upcoming Office Hours Session scheduled for Tribal applicants on May 17, 2022 at 4 p.m. ET. 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.

FCC Waiver Required for Out-of-Window Applications

FY2022 application cycle has two filing window deadlines set for two types of applications:

- The first filing window closed on March 22, 2022 for applications without at least one new Tribal library listed as recipient of service.
- The FCC issued an order (DA 22-231) to waive the filing window deadline and extended the deadline to May 26, 2022 for new Tribal library applicants and applications with at least one new Tribal library listed as recipient of service.

If an FCC Form 471 is filed after May 26, 2022, the applicant will need to file a waiver with the FCC regarding the application filing deadline. If granted by the FCC, then USAC will change the application status from out-of-window to in-window status, meaning that USAC can process the application as if it was submitted on time.

Please note: USAC cannot approve appeals or waiver requests that ask for a waiver of the E-Rate program rules—applicants must file a request for waiver with the FCC. View the basic instructions for filing the FCC Out-of-Window Waiver Requests.

FY2022 Extended E-Rate Training Series for New Tribal Libraries

We recently held three sessions of the FY2022 Extended E-Rate Training Series for New Tribal Libraries and have provided links to the sessions below in this email. The description for each session includes links to other great resources. Training-related questions can be sent to TribalTraining@usac.org.

The E-Rate program recently announced a new training on the Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) and Selective Review Process. Registration information for this training is also included below.

Upcoming Training

General E-Rate Training: PIA and Selective Review Process Training

Thursday, May 12, 2022
2 p.m. ET
Register Now

Overview: This hour-long session provides an overview of the Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) and Selective Review processes and steps to prepare and be ready to respond to USAC's information requests during these reviews.

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

More recorded sessions are available on the E-Rate Webinars page and E-Rate Tribal Training page.

Session 1: E-Rate Information Session	Watch a Recording	Slide Deck
Session 2: Establish a Consortium	Watch a Recording	Slide Deck
Session 3: Office Hours	Watch a Recording	Slide Deck

More Announcements

Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) Program

Third ECF Application Filing Window is Now Open

The third Emergency Connectivity Fund application filing window opened on Thursday, April 28, 2022 and will close on Friday, May 13, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. ET. During the third window, schools and libraries will be able to request ECF 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.

If you are unfamiliar with the ECF 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 **ECF Customer Service Center** (CSC) at (800) 234-9781.

Job Announcement: USAC Tribal Liaison

The job description for the USAC Tribal Liaison position is now posted on the USAC Careers Portal. The responsibilities for this position include supporting the E-Rate program's Tribal training initiative and coordinating Tribal outreach across USAC. We encourage you to review and share this exciting professional

opportunity with your networks.

The outgoing USAC Tribal Liaison will be available until May 27, 2022 to answer your questions. During the transition period, TribalLiaison@usac.org and TribalTraining@usac.org will continue to be monitored regularly.

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: April 22, 2022

- FY2022 FCC Form 473 Now Available
- Filing the FY2022 FCC Form 486
- Overview of the PIA Review Process
- Receipt Acknowledgment Letter (RAL) Modification Requests & Post-Commitment Corrections
- May 26 Deadline for New Tribal Libraries to Submit FY2022 FCC Form 471

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.