Monthly E-Rate Tribal e-Newsletter

June 3, 2021

Dear Tribal Stakeholder,

Last month's postponed presentation on the Overview of the Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) Process will be held during the E-Rate Tribal Teleconference on Tuesday, June 8. Please join us if you have questions about engaging in the PIA process.

On May 26, the E-Rate program held a webinar on the PIA Review and Selective Review. A recording is available on the E-Rate Webinar page.

Monthly E-Rate Tribal Teleconference

E-Rate Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) Process Overview

Tuesday, June 8, 2021
4:00 p.m. ET
Register

Join us for a new, interactive E-Rate Tribal Teleconference as USAC's E-Rate team reviews the PIA process. During this session, our E-Rate staff will provide a detailed overview of the following PIA information:

- How to prepare for the PIA process,
- What to do when you receive a PIA alert, and
- When to respond to a PIA inquiry.

Register today and bring your questions—we look forward to having you!

Important Resources

The weekly Schools and Libraries (E-Rate) program [News Brief](#) provides tips to help you through the application process and other timely information.

News Brief: [May 28, 2021](#)

- Selective Review Overview
- Getting Started with Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF)

News Brief: [May 21, 2021](#)

- Responding to PIA Review Questions in E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC)

News Brief: [May 14, 2021](#)

- ECF Program
- Upcoming Webinars

News Brief: [May 7, 2021](#)

- Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) Reminders
- Registration Opens for Two May 26 Webinars

Other Announcements

Emergency Connectivity Fund Program

On May 11, 2021, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a Report and Order ([FCC 21-58](#)) establishing the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) Program. Congress appropriated $7.171 billion for the ECF Program, which will be administered by USAC.

During the first funding window, schools and libraries will be able to apply for funding for purchases to be made between July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022 of eligible equipment, including Wi-Fi hotspots, modems, routers, and laptop and tablet computers, as well as commercially available broadband internet access services to meet the remote learning needs of students, school staff, and library patrons who would otherwise lack access to connected devices and broadband connections sufficient to engage in remote learning.
Where there are no commercially available broadband internet access services available, schools and libraries will be able to seek ECF Program support to construct or self-provision networks to connect students, school staff, and library patrons who would otherwise not be connected to the internet or for the customer premises equipment needed to receive access to educational content through datacasting.

Stay Informed

In the coming weeks, USAC will provide more information about the ECF Program, including timing for the program's application window.

As part of this effort, we will conduct ECF outreach including informational emails and trainings. Sign up to stay informed about the ECF Program and receive information about future training sessions. Please continue to check the USAC website for updates on the ECF Program and watch your email for important communications.

Get Ready

Schools and libraries that plan to participate in the program can get ready to apply by making sure they have an FCC Registration Number and an active SAM.gov registration (see below). If a school or library has already registered with both the FCC and SAM.gov, applicants should check to ensure their SAM.gov registration has not expired or will not expire in the near future.

- Schools and libraries can obtain an FCC Registration Number by visiting the FCC Commission Registration System (CORES) and completing the registration process.
- SAM.gov registration is necessary for all organizations that receive funds from the U.S. government. Because this registration is not required to participate in E-Rate, program participants may not have completed this registration previously. The SAM.gov registration process can take more than a week, so USAC recommends schools and libraries begin the process now. Applicants can apply for the ECF Program before their SAM.gov registration is approved, but will not be able receive program funding until they have completed their registration.

ECF Program applicants can complete these registration steps before the application window opens.

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 the E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC); or
- Call the CSB at (888) 203-8100. CSB is operational Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. ET.

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