



Monthly E-Rate Tribal e-Newsletter

September 10, 2021

Dear Tribal Stakeholder,

Join us on Tuesday for the E-rate Tribal Teleconference when a guest speaker from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will provide an overview of the Commission's consideration of a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. The E-rate program staff will also discuss the Hurricane Relief Order released by the FCC on September 3, 2021. Details about the session are below.

Monthly E-rate Tribal Teleconference

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

4 p.m. ET

[Add to calendar](#)

Teleconference Topics

- **Guest Speaker Kate Dumouchel, Special Counsel to the FCC General Counsel**, will provide an overview of the following tentative agenda item for the September Open Commission Meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 30, 2021:
 - **Supporting Broadband for Tribal Libraries Through E-Rate** – The Commission will consider a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that proposes to update sections 54.500 and 54.501(b)(1) of the Commission's rules to amend the definition of library and to clarify Tribal libraries are eligible for support through the E-Rate Program. (CC Docket No. 02-6) More information is available in the [FCC press release](#).
- **FCC Releases Hurricane Relief Order**
 - On September 3, 2021, FCC released an Order ([DA 21-1107](#)) that waives certain E-rate program rules and deadlines to assist participants and providers located in the areas affected by Hurricane Ida. For the purposes of the waivers granted in this Order, the FCC defines "Affected Disaster Areas" as the Louisiana parishes and Mississippi counties that the Federal Emergency Management

Agency (FEMA) has designated as eligible for Individual or Public Assistance for the purposes of federal disaster relief as of September 3, 2021, which includes all parishes and counties in those states. For detailed information, please refer to the [Order](#).

- **Q&A**

Join by Phone

- Toll Free: (844) 740-1264
- Access code: 2304 509 7790

Other Announcements

Emergency Connectivity Fund Office Hours Session for Tribal Applicants

Thursday, September 23, 2021

4 p.m. ET

[Register](#)

In view of outstanding demand and the recent spike in coronavirus cases, the FCC announced in a [press release](#) that they will open a second application filing window for schools and libraries to request funding for connected devices and broadband connections for off-campus use by students, school staff, and library patrons for the current 2021-22 school year. **The second application filing window will open on September 28, 2021 and close on October 13, 2021.**

During this window, eligible schools and libraries, in addition to the consortia of schools and libraries, can submit requests for funding to purchase eligible equipment and services between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 to meet the remote learning needs of students, school staff, and library patrons with unmet needs.

More detail on the Program is available in the FCC [Order](#) that established the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program. To learn more, please visit EmergencyConnectivityFund.org and [sign up](#) for Emergency Connectivity Fund Program emails.

Applicants and service providers can also contact the Emergency Connectivity Fund Customer Support Center (CSC) with questions at (800) 234-9781 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET.

Important Resources

The weekly Schools and Libraries (E-rate) program [News Brief](#) is on summer break. For current reminders, notifications, and website outages, you can refer to the [Announcements](#) and [Upcoming Dates](#) pages on the USAC website.

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 a.m. and 8 p.m. ET.

Questions or Suggestions?

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