

## E-RATE CENTRAL E-RATE NEWS

Summary of Current E-Rate News, Events & Deadlines



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### Upcoming Dates & To-Do's

#### Post FCC Form 470

The time is NOW to post a FCC Form 470 for libraries wanting to receive E-rate discounts for Internet access for service starting July 1, 2019. E-rate will cover up to 90% of your monthly recurring costs. Contact Norma Fowler at the State Library or Mel Van Patten with the State E-rate Team to begin the process. [NFowler@admin.nv.gov](mailto:NFowler@admin.nv.gov) or [Nevada@e-ratecentral.com](mailto:Nevada@e-ratecentral.com)

#### EPC Administrative Window— Open Now

Libraries can now update entity information, including addresses, names, telephone numbers, email addresses, etc. in the EPC Portal. This time is known as the Administrative Window. Applicants may update their EPC profile information until approximately three days before the 2019 Filing Window Opens. Let us know of any necessary changes and we will make the updates on your behalf. EPC

### E-rate Timeline

**August - November 2018:** File FCC Form 470, requesting bids for eligible services, minimum 28-day bidding period then complete bid evaluation and sign contract or agreement for service starting July 1, 2019

**January - March 2019:** File FCC Form 471, application for funding

**March – July 2019:** Answer PIA questions regarding FCC Form 471 application

**May – September 2019:** Receive Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL)

**July 1, 2019:** Prepare to start service.

### Recap from USAC's First Applicant Trainings in D.C.

USAC held its first three applicant trainings in October, including two in Washington, D.C. and one in the Chicago, IL area.

The State E-rate Team attended the D.C. trainings, which were held in USAC's offices. The trainings offered beginner and advanced sessions and USAC staff answered questions throughout the presentations, which allowed for good crowd interaction.

If you have interest in attending a live USAC training or webinar via your computer, check out their training page at <https://www.usac.org/sl/about/outreach/default.aspx>

We expect the FCC will release the FY 2019 Eligible Services List (ESL) within the next month. This must happen before the Filing Window can be announced. We know that USAC is pushing for a January 10th filing window opening and a March 20th closing date. We will notify you in an upcoming newsletter when the dates are announced.

One hot topic was what Category 2 funding will look like after FY 2019 since the C2 Budgets are due to sunset for applicants who were funded for C2 in 2015. As of now, unless the FCC takes action to extend Category 2 budgets, C2 for applicants will revert back to the pre-E-rate Modernization Order format of being able to be funded for C2 equipment two out of every five years. This is problematic since under 2-in-5, lower discount rate applicants rarely received funding for equipment and maintenance.

We did find out that a library will get a full five years to use its C2 budget, so if C2 funding was first requested in 2017, the last year to use the remaining budget is 2021.

At this date, FY 2019 is the final year for C2 budgets to be in place, so if you have any needs for network equipment, let us know and we will help you file.

USAC continues to be dedicated to pushing out faster funding decisions for FY 2019, with a goal to have 90% of all workable applications funded by September 1, 2019. This is very good news.

Much discussion surrounded the ability for a library to conduct a product demonstration onsite and USAC agreed that is allowable. Be mindful that the equipment can be onsite only for a reasonable amount of time and cannot remain indefinitely. That would be in violation of the gift rules.

### E-rate FAQ's:

- 1) **We have a multi-year contract for Internet access. Do we need to post a Form 470?** If your contract was procured through a valid Form 470 procurement process, you do not need to post a new Form 470. If not procured via Form 470, you must post a 470 and can consider your existing contract as a bid. We can help you through the process.

2) **We have completed our bid evaluation. Should we notify the losing bidders?** E-rate rules do not require notification to non-winning providers. Follow your local procurement rules. If local rules are silent, use your best judgement and handle accordingly.

3) **Are these E-rate eligible: 1) Mifi devices that we loan out to patrons? 2) Filtering and anti-virus software? 3) Network servers?** In short, no, no, and conditionally.

- Mifi devices that are loaned out are *ineligible* since they will be utilized off-site of the library. Mifi devices used on library bookmobiles *ARE* eligible, since the bookmobile is considered a library branch.
- While filtering is an E-rate program requirement, it and anti-virus software have never been eligible for funding.
- Servers that perform caching duties are the only servers eligible for E-rate discounts.

