

E-RATE MONTHLY NEWS

Summary of Current E-Rate News, Events & Deadlines

In this issue:

- What is E-Rate?
- Benefits of Participation
- NV Connect Kids Initiative
- Getting Started
- E-Rate Timeline

Benefits of Participation

A 20-90% Cost Savings

A library takes on the same E-rate discount rate as the public school district in which the main library is located. Nevada public schools average a 70% E-rate discount.

Increased Bandwidth

The FCC established targeted bandwidths for libraries. 100 Mbps minimum if serving a population of fewer than 50,000 people and 1 Gbps if serving greater than 50,000 people.

Needed Technology

Even today, many American families lack the financial means to afford high-speed internet. Others in rural areas may lack access to internet service providers. Libraries with reliable Wi-Fi and Internet for patrons in these circumstances offer critical access to information and content.

What is E-Rate?

The universal service Schools and Libraries Program, commonly known as the E-rate Program, helps ensure that schools and libraries can obtain high-speed Internet access and telecommunications at affordable rates.

Funding may be requested under two categories of service; Category One services include Data Transmission Services and Internet Access and Category Two services include networking hardware and cabling (wireless access points, switches, routers, firewall, etc.), maintenance services for eligible equipment, and network management and monitoring.

Discounts for support depend on the category of service requested, the level of poverty and the urban/rural status. Discounts range from 20 percent to 90 percent of the costs of eligible services.

Applicants must run a competitive bidding process to procure the eligible services, using the FCC Form 470. A bid evaluation is conducted and an award is made prior to posting the FCC Form 471 E-rate application for funding. Each Form 471 goes through extensive review before a Funding Commitment Decision Letter is issued. An applicant files the FCC Form 486 to indicate receipt of service and CIPA compliance and E-rate credits are either received as discounts on the invoices or through reimbursement. More information: <https://www.usac.org/si/about/getting-started/default.aspx>

E-rate Timeline

August - October 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

Post-FCDL: File FCC Form 486 to indicate CIPA compliance and receipt of service

July 1, 2019: Prepare to start new service!

Nevada Connect Kids Initiative

The Nevada Connect Kids was created to increase broadband Internet access, adoption, and use across the state. As part of the Initiative, Governor Sandoval announced an investment of \$2 million for a state matching fund to ensure schools and libraries have the infrastructure they need to access high-speed broadband.

E-Rate Central

The Office of Science, Innovation, and Technology (OSIT) has contracted E-Rate Central to create a state team dedicated to leveraging broadband projects. These projects foster greater opportunities to connect to education, healthcare, workforce development, and public safety, which means communities can expand their economic development opportunities. This will create the ability to access new markets, create more jobs, and our schools, colleges and universities can conduct digital and distance learning with ease. For more on E-Rate Central: <https://e-ratecentral.com/>

OSIT, E-Rate Central and the Nevada State Library are partnering to offer **free E-rate filing assistance** in an effort to meet the goals of the NV Connect Kids Initiative. Initiative goals are to increase the percentage of federal broadband funding requests approved, increase the amount of federal broadband funding the state receives, expand access to broadband to the rural and remote sites, and ensure every student meets FCC connectivity standard and future proof for future demands.

Getting Started

The E-Rate Team is ready to help you begin the E-rate process for FY 2019-20. Reach out by email, Nevada@e-ratecentral.com, by phone, (516) 801-7828, or contact Norma Fowler at the Nevada State Library, nfowler@admin.nv.gov or (775) 684-3407.



If you don't know how to begin, just call us! (516) 801-7828

