

Emergency Connectivity Fund Program Overview



Universal Service
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Agenda

About the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program

- What is the Emergency Connectivity Fund?
- Program Eligibility
- Eligible Equipment and Services

Application Process

- Preparing to Participate

Next Steps

- Outreach and Training

About the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program

Message from the FCC Acting Chairwoman, Jessica Rosenworcel

What is the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program?

- On May 10, 2021, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted a Report and Order ([FCC 21-58](#)) establishing the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program (the Program). Congress appropriated \$7.17 billion for the ECF Program, which USAC will administer.
- The Program will provide funding to schools and libraries for the purchase of laptop and tablet computers, Wi-Fi hotspots, routers, modems and broadband connections for use by students, school staff, and library patrons at locations that include locations other than the school or library during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- During the initial application filing window, schools and libraries will be able to apply for funding for eligible equipment and/or services purchased between **July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022** 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.

Program Eligibility

School and Library Eligibility

- All of the schools, libraries, and consortia of schools and libraries that are eligible for support under the E-rate program are also eligible for support through the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program.
- Schools and libraries eligible for Program funding do not need to be current E-rate participants.
 - Eligible entities that have not applied for E-rate support should be prepared to demonstrate eligibility as an eligible school or library under Program rules during USAC's application review.

School and Library Eligibility

Schools must meet the statutory definition of elementary and secondary schools in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 7801).

- **An elementary school** is a non-profit institutional day or residential school, including a public elementary charter school, that provides elementary education, as determined under state law.
- **A secondary school** is a non-profit institutional day or residential school, including a public secondary charter school, that provides secondary education, as determined under state law, except that such term does not include any education beyond grade 12.

School and Library Eligibility

Libraries must be eligible for support from a state library administrative agency under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) (20 U.S.C. § 9122). The definition includes:

- A public library.
- A public elementary school or secondary school library.
- A Tribal library.
- An academic library.
- A research library, one that makes publicly available library services and material suitable for scholarly research and not otherwise available to the public, and is not an integral part of an institution of higher education.
- A private library, but only if the state in which such private library is located determines that the library should be considered a library for purposes of this definition.
- A “library consortium” is any local, statewide, regional, or interstate cooperative association of libraries that provides for the systematic and effective coordination of the resources of schools, public, academic, and special libraries and information centers, for improving services to the clientele of such libraries.

School and Library Eligibility

Ineligible schools and libraries:

- For-profit schools and libraries;
- Schools with endowments in excess of \$50,000,000;
- Libraries whose budgets are not completely separate from any schools; and
- Libraries or library consortia that are not eligible for assistance from a state library administrative agency under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).
 - Tribal libraries are eligible for support under LSTA, and thus are eligible for support through the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program.

Eligible Equipment and Services

Eligible Equipment & Services

The following types of equipment are eligible for support under the Program:

- Connected Devices (laptop and tablet computers)
 - Desktop computers and smartphones are **ineligible** for Program funding
- Wi-Fi hotspots
- Modems (including air cards used to connect end-user devices to the internet through cellular data services)
- Routers
- Devices that combine a modem and router

Eligible Equipment & Services

The following services are eligible for support under the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program:

- Commercially available Internet access services providing a fixed or mobile broadband Internet access connection for off-campus use by students, school staff, or library patrons.
- Limited Exception for New Construction and Datacasting Equipment
 - Where there are no commercially available broadband Internet access services available, schools and libraries may be able to seek Emergency Connectivity Fund Program support to construct or self-provision a network or purchase equipment needed to support datacasting.

Reasonable Support Amounts

- Applicants may seek funding for:
 - Up to **\$400** for each connected device (laptops and tablets)
 - Up to **\$250** for each Wi-Fi hotspot provided to a student, school staff or library patron
- The reasonable costs of all other eligible equipment and services will be determined upon careful review by USAC with guidance from the FCC.

Application Process

Emergency Connectivity Fund

The Process

These steps will help applicants navigate the process to get funding.

- 1 Complete Registrations
- 2 Determine Eligibility
- 3 Request Funding
- 4 Application Review
- 5 Funding Decision
- 6 Reimbursement

Preparing to Participate – Set Up an Entity Profile

- To apply for and receive Emergency Connectivity Fund Program funding, participants will need an **ECF portal account**.
 - Applicants and consultants participating in the ECF Program will use this online portal to manage program processes.
- To create your ECF portal account, USAC will use your new or existing credentials for the **E-rate Productivity Center (EPC)**.
- EPC is the account and application management portal for the E-rate program.
- USAC will automatically transfer your EPC account information to create an account in the ECF portal.

Preparing to Participate – Set Up an Entity Profile

If you are already an E-rate participant and have an account in EPC:

- You will get access to the new ECF portal with your existing EPC credentials.
 - This includes your entity or company information and account management settings, such as account users and user permissions.

Preparing to Participate – Set Up an Entity Profile

If your entity or company has an EPC account, but you need to create a new user:

- Your EPC account administrator can set up new users in EPC.
- Once your account administrator has added you as a new user on your entity or company account, USAC will send you a new user email with a link to reset your account password.
- After setting your account password, you will need to accept the EPC terms and conditions to complete the process of becoming a new user in EPC and gain access to the ECF Portal.
- If you need assistance with your EPC account, contact the Emergency Connectivity Fund Customer Support Center (CSC).

Preparing to Participate – Set Up an Entity Profile

If you are brand new to the Emergency Connectivity Fund and E-rate programs:

- Obtain an FCC Registration Number and register with the System for Awards Management (SAM).
 - If you have already registered with both the FCC and SAM.gov, check to ensure your SAM.gov registration has not expired or will not expire in the near future.
 - Program participants can complete these registration steps before the application window opens.
- Create an EPC account for your entity or company.
 - Call ECF Customer Support Center at (800) 234-9781 Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET to set up your account in EPC.
 - Please note that the CSC is not yet available – it will open before the application funding window

Preparing to Participate – Obtain an FCC Registration Number


Federal Communications Commission
Commission Registration System (CORES)

FCC Registration

[FCC](#) > [FCC Registration](#) > User Login < [FCC Site Map](#)

FCC Registration - Login

You are accessing a U.S. Government Information System. Information system usage may be monitored, recorded, and subject to audit. Unauthorized use of the information system is prohibited and subject to criminal and civil penalties. Use of the information system indicates consent to monitoring and recording.

Welcome to the COmission REgistration System (CORES).

If you DO NOT have an FCC Username, please click the "REGISTER" button below to register an FCC Username.

CORES allows you to:

- Register and Manage the 10 digit FCC Registration Number (FRN).
- View financial standing (RED or Green Light Status) with the FCC and make payments.
- Manage Incentive Auction financials.

Click [Here](#) for CORES Tutorial Videos.

[News releases](#) related to the FCC Registration Number.

Username Login

Note: The Username is the email address associated with your FCC Username Account.

Username:

Password:

[LOG IN](#)

Need a Username?

[REGISTER](#)

Forgot/Reset your [Username Password?](#)

Check [Username Availability](#)

Search for public FRN information

[SEARCH](#)

Customer Service

[Help](#)
[Frequently Asked Questions](#)
[Privacy Statement](#)
[FCC Home Page](#)

For assistance, please submit a help request at <https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/available-support-services> or call 877-480-3201 (Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-6 p.m. ET).

Preparing to Participate – Obtain an FCC Registration Number

- All Emergency Connectivity Fund participants must have an FCC Registration Number.
- Program participants can obtain an FCC Registration Number by visiting the FCC's Commission Registration System ([CORES](#)) and completing the registration process.
- If your organization already has an existing FCC Registration Number you do not need to register again.

Preparing to Participate – Register with SAM.gov

Home Search Data Bank Data Services Help

Sign In

SAM.GOV®

Official U.S. Government Website
100% Free

The Official U.S. Government System for:

- Contract Opportunities**
(was fbo.gov)
- Contract Data**
(Reports ONLY from fpds.gov)
- Wage Determinations**
(was wdol.gov)
- Federal Hierarchy**
Departments and Subtiers
- Assistance Listings**
(was cfda.gov)
- Entity Registration**
Including Disaster Response Registry
- Entity Reporting**
SCR and Bio-Preferred Reporting
- Exclusions**

Register Your Entity
Register your entity to get started doing business with the federal government.

- Get Started
- Renew Entity
- Check Registration Status

Already know what you want to find?

Select Domain... e.g. 1606N020Q02

Preparing to Participate – Register with SAM.gov

- Registration with the [System for Awards Management](https://sam.gov) (SAM.gov) is necessary for all applicants and service providers who agree to invoice on behalf of applicants to be able to submit invoices for reimbursement.
- USAC recommends you first search SAM.GOV to see if your organization has a current registration.
- The SAM.gov registration process can take more than a week.
 - USAC recommends that participants begin the process now.
- Applicants can apply for the ECF Program support before their SAM.gov registration is approved, but will not be able receive program funding until they have completed their registration.

Complete Application

- To apply, Schools and Libraries complete the Emergency Connectivity Fund FCC Form 471.
- Applicants must complete and certify the Emergency Connectivity Fund FCC Form 471 during the filing window.
- Service providers may not complete the Emergency Connectivity Fund FCC Form 471 on behalf of a school or library.
- Applicants must certify that they have complied with all applicable local, state, and Tribal procurement requirements with respect to both previous purchases and future purchases and contracts.
- While similar, the Emergency Connectivity Fund FCC Form 471 is not the same form that applicants submit to participate in E-rate.

USAC will offer training to help applicants complete the Emergency Connectivity Fund FCC Form 471.

Next Steps

Emergency Connectivity Fund Trainings

- USAC will offer e-learning modules to help applicants successfully participate in the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program.
 - E-learning modules offer participants the opportunity to do self-paced learning and access related resources.
- USAC will host weekly office hours sessions where potential applicants can ask questions about the e-learning modules and get support completing the application process.

Stay Informed

- Visit the Program website at EmergencyConnectivityFund.org.
- Sign up for the [Program Newsletter and Emails](#).
- Attend Program office hour sessions.
- Refer to the Program learning modules.
- Contact the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program Customer Support Center (CSC) at (800) 234-9781 Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET.

Questions?

Appendix

Preparing to Participate – Obtain an FCC Registration Number

Register with CORES

- First, go to the [FCC's CORES webpage](#).
- Set up an account in CORES by creating a username and password.
- You will then receive an automated email to verify your account's email address and activate your account.
- Once your account is activated, log in to CORES, and select “Register New FRN” if you do not have an FCC Registration Number. If you have an existing FCC Registration Number, select “Associate Username to FRN.”
- After you provide the required information and submit, CORES will generate a new FCC Registration Number for you, which will be associated with your username.

Preparing to Participate – Register with SAM.gov

- To register for a SAM account, you will need to enter the following information into the SAM.gov:
 - Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number;
 - Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) or Employment Identification Number (EIN); and
 - Your bank's routing number, your bank account number, and your bank account type (i.e., checking or savings), to set up electronic funds transfer (EFT). You will receive a confirmation email once the registration is activated.

Preparing to Participate – Register with SAM.gov

Locate or Obtain a DUNS Number

- The Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) is a proprietary system developed and regulated by Dun & Bradstreet. DUNS provides a unique numeric identifier to a single business entity upon request.
- Dun & Bradstreet will issue a DUNS number without charge to an entity required to register with the federal government for contracts or grants.
 - First, check to see if you already have a DUNS number. You can check by using the [Dun & Bradstreet DUNS Number Lookup](#) tool.
 - If you do not already have a DUNS number, you can apply for one through the [Dun & Bradstreet website](#).

Preparing to Participate – Register with SAM.gov

Locate or Obtain a TIN or EIN

- A Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) is a unique identification number issued by either the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or the Social Security Administration (SSA). The Employee Identification Number (EIN), also referred to as the Federal Tax Identification Number, is an example of a TIN and is used to identify a business entity.
- To learn more about the TIN, visit the [IRS Taxpayer Identification Number \(TIN\)](#) webpage. To learn more about the EIN, visit the [IRS Employee ID Numbers](#) webpage.