

Dear Tribal Library Director:

We are excited to share with you two funding opportunities offered by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that can help Tribal libraries and their community members get connected. The FCC wants to help Tribal libraries like yours take advantage of these opportunities.

E-Rate Program Update for Tribal Libraries and Pilot Program

Recognizing the vital role Tribal libraries play in providing free, public Internet access on Tribal lands, the FCC updated its rules earlier this year to make it easier for Tribal libraries to apply for and receive E-Rate support. The E-Rate program provides discounts of up to 90 percent of the costs for broadband connections to schools or libraries and internal connections (e.g., Wi-Fi networks) within schools and libraries. The next application filing window will open in January 2023, so now is the right time to begin taking steps, like attending fall virtual trainings conducted by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) and setting up an account in the online application filing system.

For libraries new to the E-Rate program, we hope you will consider participating in our new Tribal Library Pilot Program. The pilot program will provide one-on-one technical assistance for Tribal libraries through all phases of the E-Rate application and reimbursement process. At this time, we are hoping to include at least 20 Tribal libraries in the pilot program. If your Tribal library would like to participate, please begin the application process at <https://tinyurl.com/tribalpilot>. Applications for the E-Rate Tribal Libraries Pilot Program are due by Friday, November 18, 2022.

To learn more about the E-Rate Pilot Program, please join us for a virtual Interest Meeting that will be held on Monday, November 7, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. ET. Please register by emailing TribalTraining@usac.org. If you have questions about E-Rate or the pilot program, please contact us at native@fcc.gov or visit www.fcc.gov/tribal-libraries.

Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)

Another FCC initiative that provides opportunities for broadband Internet service funding in Tribal communities is the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which helps low-income households pay for Internet service and connected devices. Specifically, this benefit provides a discount of up to \$75 per month toward Internet service for eligible households on qualifying Tribal lands and a one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased from a participating provider. There may be tribal members in your communities that qualify for this program to help to cover the costs of internet service and certain connected devices. You can learn more by visiting www.fcc.gov/acp.

The FCC wants to ensure that Tribal libraries and tribal community members have all the resources they need to apply for and receive support through these programs. Enclosed you'll find helpful materials for getting started with the E-Rate program and the Affordable Connectivity Program. We also ask that you help us by sharing these materials with other Tribal libraries and qualifying Tribal households that may be interested in applying for these programs. FCC staff will also be in attendance at several upcoming tribal conferences and are available to provide additional information.

If you have any questions or feedback about the E-Rate program or the Affordable Connectivity Program and our outreach efforts, please contact our Office of Native Affairs and Policy at native@fcc.gov. We want to hear from you!

Sincerely,



Trent Harkrader
Bureau Chief
Wireline Competition Bureau
Federal Communications Commission



Alejandro Roark
Bureau Chief
Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau
Federal Communications Commission

List of Documents Included:

E-Rate Program

- **Attachment 1** – E-Rate Program One-Page Overview for Tribal Libraries
- **Attachment 2** – E-Rate Checklist for New Libraries
- **Attachment 3** – Pilot Program Brochure

Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)

- **Attachment 4** – Tribal ACP Flyer
- **Attachment 5** – ACP Tribal Consumer Handout