

The FCC's Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) program is a \$7.17 billion program that helps eligible schools and libraries provide the tools and services their communities need for remote learning during the COVID-19 emergency period. The Emergency Connectivity Fund program helps provide relief to millions of students, school staff, and library patrons, and helps close the Homework Gap for students who currently lack necessary Internet access or the devices they need to connect to classrooms.

Here are some important things to know about the [Emergency Connectivity Fund](#):

What Is the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program?

- The Emergency Connectivity Fund program is a \$7.17 billion program to help schools and libraries support remote learning. The program will provide funding to schools and libraries for the reasonable costs of eligible equipment and services for off-campus use by students, school staff, and library patrons who lack connected devices such as laptop or tablet computers, Wi-Fi hotspots, and/or lack broadband access during the pandemic.
- The Emergency Connectivity Fund was created by the American Rescue Plan Act and is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC).

Who Is Eligible to Receive Funds Through the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program?

- Schools, libraries, and consortia of eligible schools and libraries (e.g., regional or statewide groups of schools or libraries that apply together) that are eligible for support under the [FCC's E-Rate program](#), are eligible to request and receive support through the Emergency Connectivity Fund program. Tens of thousands of schools and libraries across the country receive support for their on-campus broadband connectivity needs through the [E-Rate program](#).
- Tribal libraries eligible for support under the Library Services and Technology Act are also eligible for support under the program.
- Schools and libraries eligible for program support 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 a school or library under the program rules during USAC's application review.

What Equipment and Services Are Covered by the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program?

- The following types of equipment purchased for off-campus use by students, school staff, and library patrons who would otherwise lack sufficient connectivity to engage in remote learning are eligible for support:
 - Laptop and tablet computers
 - Wi-Fi hotspots
 - Modems (including air cards)
 - Routers
 - Devices that combine a modem and router.

- Schools and libraries can also receive funding for commercially available broadband internet access service that provides a fixed or mobile broadband connection for off-campus use by students, school staff, or library patrons who would otherwise lack access to connectivity sufficient to engage in remote learning.

In limited circumstances where a school or library can demonstrate that there are no available service options sufficient to support remote learning for its students, school staff, or library patrons, the program may support the construction of new networks and the equipment needed to receive datacasting services.

What Are the Reasonable Support Amounts for Eligible Equipment and Services?

- The program will reimburse eligible schools and libraries a maximum of \$400 for each laptop or tablet, and a maximum of \$250 for Wi-Fi hotspots.
 - Schools and libraries may buy more expensive laptops, tablets, or Wi-Fi-hotspots, but they can only be reimbursed up to \$400/\$250.
- For other eligible equipment and services, USAC will review costs to ensure they are reasonable.

Can a Student Receive Emergency Connectivity Fund Support and Receive Emergency Broadband Benefit/Affordable Connectivity Program Support at the Same Time?

- No, the ECF will not reimburse for equipment and/or services that are paid for by another federal pandemic relief program.
 - But a student could receive broadband access service through the [Affordable Connectivity Program](#) and a connected device through the Emergency Connectivity Fund.

Highlights From the First, Second & Third Application Filing Windows

- The FCC and USAC have opened and closed three application filing windows: The initial application filing window closed on August 13, 2021, the second application filing window closed on October 13, 2021, and the third, and final, application filing window closed on May 13, 2022.
 - During the first two application filing windows, applicants could submit requests for funding to purchase eligible equipment and up to a maximum of 12 months of services received between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2023. Applicants requested over \$6.4 billion in these windows to fund nearly 11.5 million connected devices and nearly 6 million broadband connections.
 - During the third application filing window, applicants could submit requests for funding to purchase eligible equipment and up to a maximum of 12 months of services between July 1, 2022 and December 31, 2023. Applicants requested over \$2.8 billion in the third window to fund over 5.1 million connected devices and over 4.2 million broadband connections.
- Applications came in from all 50 states, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia.
- The FCC and USAC are reviewing applications and issuing funding commitment decisions on a rolling basis.
 - Because demand exceeds available funds, applications submitted during the third application filing window will be prioritized based on an applicant's E-Rate discount rate

for Category One services, adjusted to provide a five percent increase for rural schools and libraries.

- Current information on commitments is available at <https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/ecf-current-funding-commitments.xlsx>. You can also view demand by state: <https://www.fcc.gov/reports-research/maps/ecf-state-demand/>. Detailed information on the status of Emergency Connectivity Fund applications is available in the [Open Data Platform](#), including applicant details, requested funds, individual product or service details, and funding commitment information.

Where Can a School or Library Find Out More Information about the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program?

- To learn more, please visit: www.emergencyconnectivityfund.org.
- Review the Emergency Connectivity Fund FAQs, which the FCC continues to update: www.fcc.gov/emergency-connectivity-fund-faqs.
- Contact the Emergency Connectivity Fund Customer Support Center (CSC) at (800) 234-9781 with questions about the Program.
- [Sign up for emails](#) to stay informed about the Emergency Connectivity Fund, including Program announcements and invitations for future training sessions.