

E-Rate: How you can take advantage of the Savings

SC State E-Rate Coordinator
Victoria Gooch, CPM

Agenda

E-Rate Program Overview

How E-Rate Benefits You?

Join the SC State E-Rate Consortium?

Updates: What's Ahead

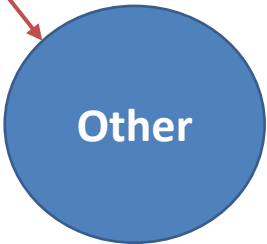
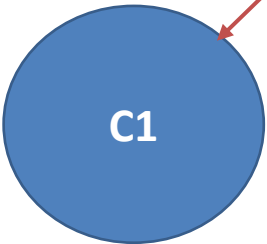
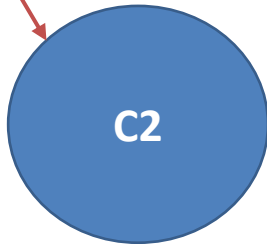
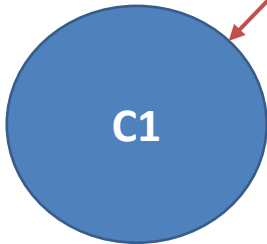
Training Resources

Questions?

E-Rate Program Overview



Universal Service
Administrative Co.



E-Rate

“Education Rate”

Federal Communications Committee (FCC)

- Congress enacted the Telecommunication Act of 1996, which directed the FCC to establish the E-Rate program. The E-Rate program makes telecommunications and information services affordable for schools and libraries.
- E-Rate provides discounts for telecommunications, internet access, and internal connections to eligible schools and libraries.
- Discount rates range from 20 to 90 percent (discount details later in the presentation)

Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC)

- Administers the E-Rate program under the direction of the FCC.
- Develops procedures for specific actions, such as how to process applications.
- Responsible for the day-to-day administration of the E-Rate Program.

SC K-12 School Technology Initiative

- The South Carolina K-12 School Technology Initiative was founded in 1996, as part of the General Assembly's proactive approach to addressing technology infrastructure, connectivity and education in schools throughout the Palmetto State. The committee approves E-Rate Consortium budget and bandwidth policy.
- The Initiative, steered by a unique public/private partnership, guides the distribution of funds appropriated by the Governor and General Assembly.
- These funds collectively help to meet our schools' needs for software, hardware, connectivity, digital content, instructional technologies, cybersecurity protection and professional development opportunities.



SC State E-Rate Consortium

One of the largest consortiums in
the United States.

Public schools, charter schools, and
public libraries make up the
Consortium

Team Members

Victoria Gooch, Program Director
(State E-Rate Coordinator)
Petra Turner, Program Coordinator
Cynthia Monroe and Mackenzie
Jackson, Program Support

Members include

76 School Districts
70+ Charter and Special School
3 State Agency Districts
43 Library Systems.

Role of the Consortium

- Applies for internet and internal network connectivity Services (Category One) on behalf of Consortium members.
- Files paperwork to ensure receipt of federal E-Rate funds.
- Manage compliance and audit risk.
- Educates and assists members with E-Rate rules and regulations.
- Manages workflow of service requests for members.
- Provides financial support to members who have spent Category Two funds (subject to availability).
- Provides internet security/content filtering to members via Cisco Umbrella at no cost.

Who can apply for E-Rate funding?

Public or private schools (K-12), libraries, and groups of schools and libraries (e.g., consortia, districts, systems) can apply for discounts.



Three Eligibility Factors

Facilities

Students

Services



Eligible Services are organized into two primary categories.

Category One

Data Transmission Services and/or Internet Access

Category Two

Internal Connections (IC), Managed Internal Broadband Services (MIBS), and Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections (BMIC)

E-Rate Service Categories

- **Category One (C1)** (Service to the building's demarcation point)
 - Data Transmission and/or Internet Access
 - No budget (limit) on funding requested
 - Examples of C1 services include:
 - Leased lit fiber
 - Internet access provided over fiber or copper
 - Commercially available internet access
 - Cable provider internet
 - Satellite internet

E-Rate Service Categories (cont'd)

- **Category Two (C2)** (Portions of service **inside the building** that are covered)
 - Internal Connections
 - Cabling, routers, switches, modems, and wireless access points
 - If a device needs software or a license to make it work, this is also eligible (Right-to-Use and Client Access Licenses)
 - Managed Internal Broadband Services
 - Managed Wi-Fi Agreement
 - Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections
 - The repair and upkeep of eligible internal connections (services to deploy bugs, fixes, patches)
 - Multi-year maintenance service subscriptions (updates to existing software)
- End User equipment, such as laptops, computers, headsets, speakers, are **not** eligible for E-Rate funding.
- Applicant has a budget or limit on how much funding can be requested.
- Budget covers a five-year period. (<https://www.usac.org/e-rate/applicant-process/applying-for-discounts/category-two-budget/>)

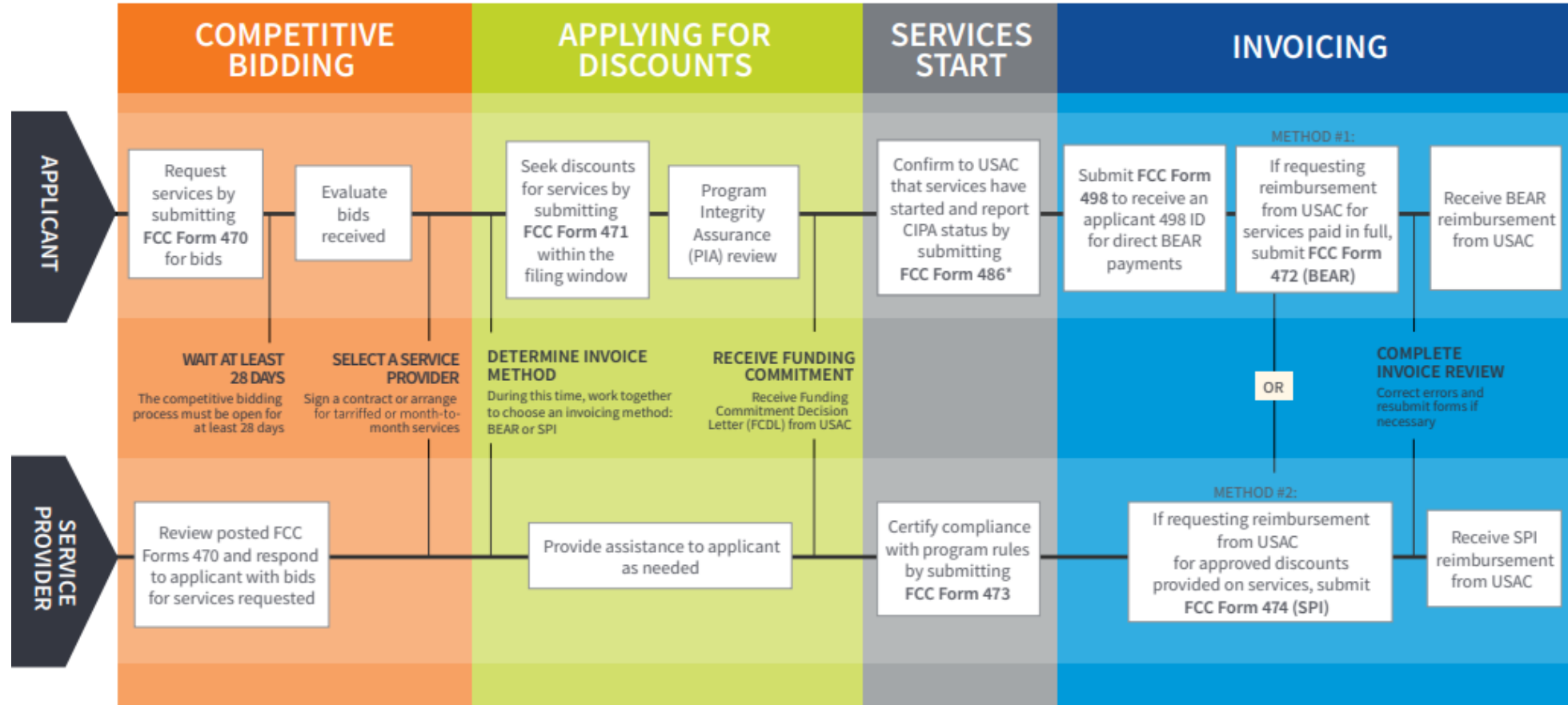
Discount Matrix

Income Measured by percentage of students eligible for National School Lunch Program (NSLP)	Urban Status Discount Rate	Rural Status Discount Rate
Less than 1%	20%	25%
1% to 19%	40%	50%
20% to 34%	50%	60%
35% to 49%	60%	70%
50% to 74%	80%	80%
75% to 100%	90% for Category 1 85% for Category 2	90% for Category 1 85% for Category 2

BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

APPLICANTS: Applicants must first have an entity number and an E-rate Productivity Center (EPC) account.

SERVICE PROVIDERS: Service providers must first obtain a Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN /service provider 498 ID) by submitting FCC Form 498.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Website: The application process is broken down in detail for both applicants and service providers on the E-rate Program website (www.usac.org/e-rate).
- Glossary of Terms: Definitions for program terms and acronyms.
- *Consortium members report their CIPA status by submitting the FCC Form 479 to their consortium leader. The consortium leader then files the FCC Form 486.
- To adjust funding commitments and/or modify the dates for receipt of services after the FCDL is issued, file the FCC Form 500.

Applicant Forms and Important FY2023 Dates

Competitive Bidding

July 2022
to
≈February 2023
(actual dates TBA)



Apply for Discounts

January 2023
to
≈March 2023
(actual dates TBA)



Start Services

July 1, 2023
to
June 30, 2024



Invoice USAC

Recurring Services
July 2023 – October 2024*

Non-recurring Services
July 2023 – January 2025*

470

471

486

472
(BEAR)

OR

474
(SPI)

* Date ranges reflect a typical timeline, but are subject to change.

Administrative Window is Currently Open

- What can you do during the Administrative Window?
 - Applicants can make updates to their profile information to prepare for the upcoming application filing window (January to March).
 - Updates during the “Admin Window” (October to January) include but are not limited to:
 - Student counts for schools and school districts
 - National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) numbers
 - Square footage counts for libraries, kiosks, and bookmobiles.
 - Consulting firms associated with the entity (including the Consortium)
 - Confirm account information, account administrator, and administrator contact information.
 - Update Organization’s profile; add, close, or update entity information (i.e. School Districts would add, close, or update individual school entities)

Document Retention

- You must keep all documentation for at least 10 years from the last date to receive service.
 - Here are some examples of documentation that would be needed for pre-planning and step one:
 - Evidence of eligibility for E-Rate participation
 - Proof of square footage
 - Bids
 - Competitive Bidding/Evaluation Matrix
 - For multi-year contracts, this means 10 years from the contract expiration date.
- Retain receipt and delivery records relating to pre-bidding, bidding, contracts, application process, invoices, provision of services, and other matters relating to your applications.
- i.e., For recurring internet access service for FY2023, both the applicant and the service provider **must retain all records** until at least June 30, 2034.

How E-Rate benefits
your School or Library?

E-Rate Benefits

- Save 20% to 90% on eligible services. This cost reduction may free up funds that can be re-allocated to other budget needs (i.e., teacher salaries or facility upgrades).
- Internet access where a student needs it. Schools and Libraries with reliable internet for students offer essential access to information and content.
 - Members of the SC State E-Rate Consortium receive additional savings on internet and internal network services.
- Higher Student-to-Device/Service Level. E-Rate makes technology more affordable; more students can access the internet and online learning modalities (i.e., statewide testing program).
- Advantages of technology in Education include better tracking, greater access, paperless teaching, and 24/7 learning opportunities.

Joining the SC State E-Rate Consortium?

Consortium Member Criteria

- Must be a Public School (or District), Charter School, or Public Library
- Complete Membership Paperwork:
 - Memorandum of Understanding
 - CIPA Certification Form
 - Site verification
 - Current Internet Safety Policy or Acceptable Use Policy
 - Content Filter Report (1 Day Transactions, de-identified)
 - Snapshot form
 - (Charter Schools & Libraries) Board Meeting Notification and Agenda showing Internet Safety Plan approval.

Eligible Schools

- Must meet the statutory definition of elementary and secondary schools found in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.
- Must be a non-profit, schools operating as for-profit are not eligible.
- School cannot have an endowment exceeding \$50 million.
- Must certify Compliance with the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA).
 - The requirement includes the following: Internet Safety Policy, Technology Protection Measure, and Public Notice and Hearing or Meeting.
 - In general, school and library authorities must certify that: they have complied with the requirements of CIPA; they are undertaking actions to comply with the requirements of CIPA; CIPA does not apply because they are receiving discounts for telecommunications services only.
 - Learn more about CIPA at <https://www.usac.org/e-rate/applicant-process/starting-services/cipa/>

Eligible Libraries

- Must certify Compliance with the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA).
 - The requirement includes the following: Internet Safety Policy, Technology Protection Measure, and Public Notice and Hearing or Meeting.
 - In general, school and library authorities must certify that: they have complied with the requirements of CIPA; they are undertaking actions to comply with the requirements of CIPA; CIPA does not apply because they are receiving discounts for telecommunications services only.
 - Learn more about CIPA at <https://www.usac.org/e-rate/applicant-process/starting-services/cipa/>
- Cannot operate as a for-profit business.
- Budget must be completely separate from any school (including any elementary and secondary schools, colleges, and universities)
- Must be eligible for assistance from State Library administrative agency under the Library Services Technology Act (LSTA), as amended by the Museum and Library Services Act of 2018.

Eligible Non-Instructional Facilities (NIF)

- A Non-Instructional Facility (NIF) is a school building without classrooms or a library building without public areas. NIFs on school and library property are eligible to receive discounts on data transmission services and internet access services, Category One services. They are not eligible for Category Two Services.
- Examples of NIFs on Library property include, but are not limited to:
 - Bookmobile garages
 - Interlibrary loan facilities
 - Library technology centers
- Examples of NIFs on School property include, but are not limited to:
 - Administrative buildings
 - School bus barns and garages
 - Facilities associated with athletic activities

Updates: What's Ahead

USAC

UEI Requirement on Service Provider FCC Form 498 Coming on November 16th

- On April 6, 2022, the FCC released a Public Notice (DA-22-371) announcing that the General Services Administration's SAM.gov will transition from the use of the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number to the SAM.gov-assigned Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). USAC is continuing to work with the FCC to complete a full transition for the collection of UEIs and the use of SAM.gov to register for UEIs and to obtain payee Automated Clearing House (ACH) and Electronic File Transfer (EFT) information from Universal Service Fund (USF) recipients. The UEI will be required for all participants with a 498 ID in the Rural Health Care (including the Connected Care Pilot Program), Lifeline, E-Rate, and High Cost USF programs.
- To prepare for this transition, USAC will update the FCC Form 498 for all service providers in the fourth quarter of 2022 to require all service provider entities to have an active UEI in order to submit or modify their FCC Form 498.

USAC

E-Rate System Consolidation

- This winter, USAC is going to integrate the invoicing, appeals and post-commitment functions into the E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC), giving users a single platform on which to conduct all E-Rate transactions.

FCC Extends FY 2021 Non-Recurring Service Delivery Deadline

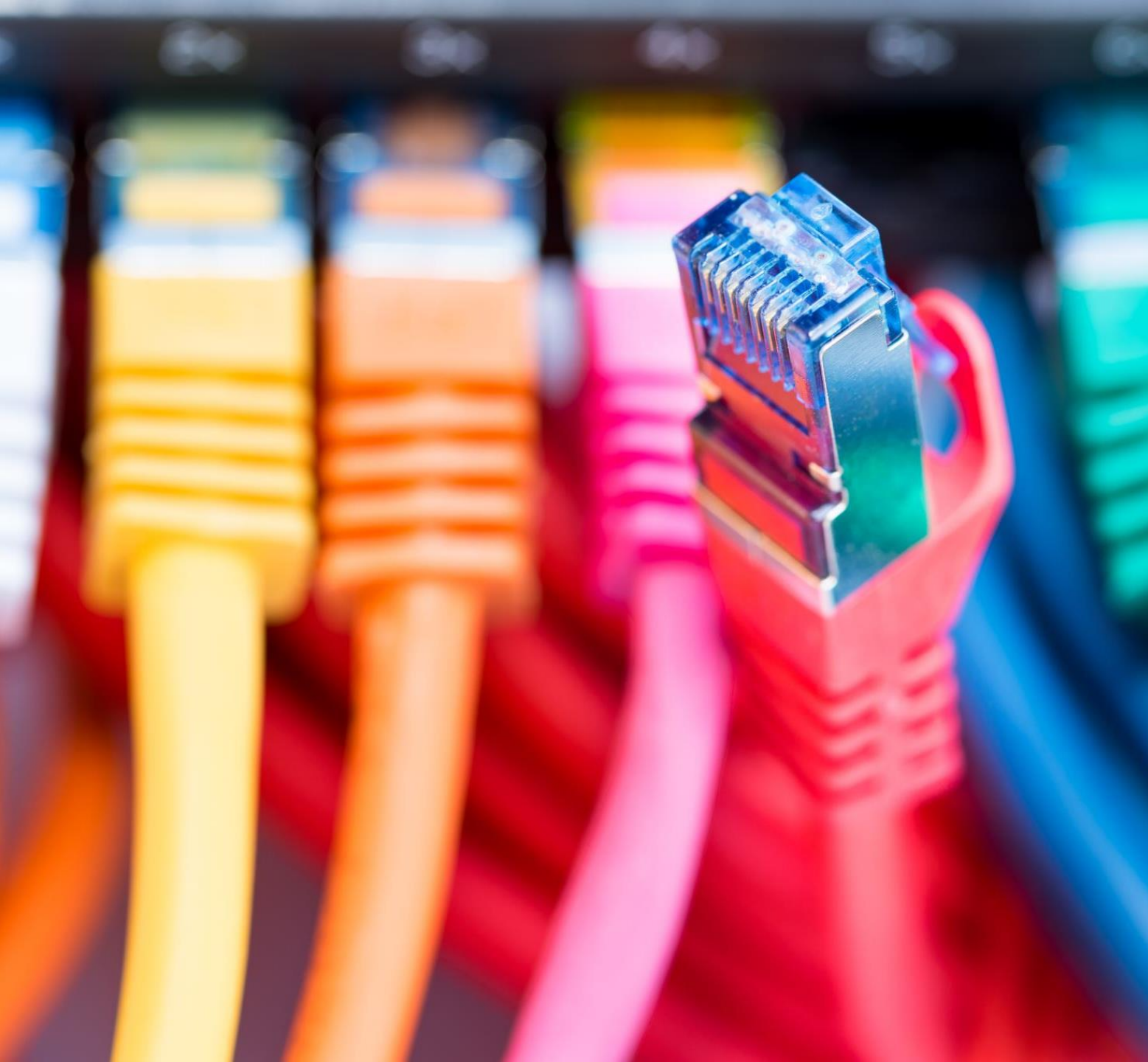
- Responding in part to the waiver request by the Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband (“SHLB”) Coalition, but on its own motion, the FCC released an Order (DA 22-976) extending the service delivery deadline for FY 2021 non-recurring service FRNs by one year from September 30th of this year to September 30, 2023. The extension also applies — and only applies — to those FY 2020 non-recurring service FRNs that had previously been extended upon request to September 30, 2022

Training Resources

Explore Information Resources

- Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
 - www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/universal-service-program-schools-and-libraries-e-rate
- Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC)
 - www.usac.org/e-rate/
 - www.usac.org/e-rate/learn/
- SC State E-Rate Program
 - <https://sck12techinit.sc.gov/> (updates coming soon)
- For the latest E-Rate news subscribe to USAC's news briefs
 - <https://cloud.outreach.usac.org/subscription>

Questions?



Contact Us

Victoria Gooch, CPM

SC State E-Rate

Program Director

victoria.gooch@admin.sc.gov

Office: (803) 896-5908

Mobile: (803) 608-8466

Fax:(803) 896-7883

Petra Turner

SC State E-Rate

Program Coordinator

petra.turner@admin.sc.gov

Office: (803) 896-0360

Mobile: (803) 394-4837

Fax:(803) 896-6120