



Federal Communications Commission Washington, D.C. 20554

October 11, 2023

Dear Tribal Leader,

We write you today to highlight two of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) broadband funding opportunities – the E-Rate program for schools and libraries and the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) for low-income households. These programs may support your efforts to connect Tribal communities and households to broadband services.

Update: E-Rate for Tribal Libraries and Extension of Pilot Program

Each year, the E-Rate program provides eligible schools and libraries with discounts of up to 90 percent of the costs for broadband services, connections, equipment, and maintenance. Recognizing the vital role Tribal libraries play in providing free, public Internet access on Tribal lands, the FCC is committed to increasing Tribal library access to affordable broadband services through the E-Rate program.

To accomplish this, the FCC updated its rules in July 2023 to make it easier for Tribal libraries, now also including eligible Tribal College and University libraries, to apply for and receive E-Rate support. The FCC has also increased Tribal library access to E-Rate funding by increasing the discount rate and funding floor for equipment and services that support connectivity within the library (Category Two equipment and services). But we understand there are still many Tribal libraries that do not know about the E-Rate program. That's why, as we approach a new E-Rate funding cycle, the FCC is promoting this broadband funding opportunity in support of Tribal libraries.

We are especially excited to let you know that the Tribal Libraries E-Rate Pilot Program we launched last year with our E-Rate program administrator -- the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) -- has been extended to provide support for Tribal libraries that are seeking funding for the upcoming funding year. The Tribal Libraries E-Rate Pilot Program will once again provide one-on-one technical assistance for Tribal libraries through all phases of the E-Rate application and reimbursement process.

If your Tribal library would like to participate in the pilot program, please begin the process by applying at <https://tinyurl.com/TribalLibraryPilot>. Applications for the Tribal Libraries Pilot Program are due by the end of October, but we will be accepting applications on a rolling basis as well. For more details about the pilot program, please visit <https://www.fcc.gov/tribal-libraries-e-rate-pilot-program>.

If you have questions about E-Rate or the pilot program, please contact us at Native@fcc.gov or TribalTraining@usac.org and visit us at <https://www.fcc.gov/tribal-libraries>.

Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)


Another FCC initiative that provides opportunities for broadband Internet service support in Tribal communities is the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). This program provides

discounts 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. The program also provides discounts of up to \$30 per month toward Internet service for eligible residents on non-Tribal lands. You can **apply for the ACP** at <https://GetInternet.gov> and learn more by visiting <https://GetInternet.gov/Tribal>. For those who do not currently have a reliable method to apply using Internet access, you can also call 1 (877) 384-2575.

We have provided the links above to materials for applying for the E-Rate program and the Affordable Connectivity Program. We ask you to help us by sharing these materials with Tribal libraries and qualifying Tribal households that may be interested in applying for these programs. Together, we can work to ensure that households, schools, and libraries in Tribal communities can afford the broadband services they need for work, school, healthcare, and more. FCC staff will also be in attendance at several upcoming tribal conferences and are available to provide additional information.

The FCC values our government-to-government relationship and welcomes any input on how it can improve and increase Tribal participation in these two programs. If you have any questions or feedback about the programs and our outreach efforts, please contact our Office of Native Affairs and Policy at Native@fcc.gov.

Sincerely,



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