

Emergency Connectivity Fund

Overview: To help schools and libraries by funding connected devices and broadband connections for students, school staff, and library patrons, who would otherwise lack sufficient access to fully engage in remote learning and virtual library services, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The purpose of the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) is to support off-campus connectivity for students, school staff, and library patrons that are unable to benefit from existing connectivity at their schools or libraries because of the pandemic.

Notes

- \$7.17B has been allocated (under the American Rescue Plan) to the ECF for schools and libraries to utilize.
- Would be administered under the Universal Service Administration Company's (USAC) E-rate program.
- From April 5th to April 23rd the FCC accepted public comments on the ECF.
- Draft report and orders were released on April 30th. (<https://www.fcc.gov/document/rosenworcel-unveils-proposed-rules-emergency-connectivity-fund>)
- Eligible equipment and services include Wi-Fi hotspots, modems, routers, modem/router combos and connected devices (laptop, tablets) and advanced telecommunications services (service for Wi-Fi hotspots).
- Mobile phones/smartphones are excluded and not eligible under the ECF.
- 100% reimbursement for eligible equipment and services.
- Up to \$400 reimbursement per connected device (laptop/tablet) and up to \$250 per Wi-Fi hotspot device.
- Two funding windows to be established.
 - First window (45-day window) for eligible schools and libraries may apply for funding for eligible equipment and services purchased between July 1, 2020 and April 30, 2021.
 - Second window, if funds are not exhausted, will begin when the first window closes and remain open until funds are spent. This second window will cover purchases made between May 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022
- There may be some limitations to ECF funding if Covid relief funds were used to purchase equipment from July 1, 2020 to current.