

About E-Rate

The FCC's E-Rate program makes telecommunications and information services more affordable by providing discounts to eligible schools and libraries, including Tribal Libraries.

With funding from the Universal Service Fund, the E-Rate program provides discounts of up to 90 percent of the costs for broadband connections to schools or libraries and, exclusively for Tribal libraries, up to 90 percent of the costs for internal connections (e.g., Wi-Fi networks).

There are two categories of service that are eligible for E-Rate funding.

Category one provides connectivity to a school or library building, which includes telecommunications services and Internet access (for example, the fiber or cable broadband connection to the library).

Category two provides Internet access within schools or libraries, which includes internal connections, basic maintenance of internal connections, and managed internal broadband services (for example, the equipment needed within a library to provide Wi-Fi to patrons).

Who is eligible to participate?

T-LEAP is open to Tribal libraries that are new to the E-Rate program or had challenges applying to the E-Rate program in the past. Tribal libraries must be able to demonstrate that they have three basic characteristics of a library:

1. Regularly scheduled hours;
2. Staff; and
3. Materials for library users

Tribal government entities can designate a Tribal library (for example, through a Tribal Resolution). Tribal libraries may also work with the state library administrative agency where they are located.



E-Rate: Universal Service Program for Schools and Libraries

E-Rate is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program that is administered by the Universal Services Administrative Company (USAC).



Universal Service Administrative Co.

If you have questions about Tribal Library E-Rate Advocacy Program, please contact:

Email:

TribalTraining@usac.org

Phone:

USAC's E-Rate Customer Service Center
Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET
(888) 203-8100



E-Rate: Universal Service Program for Schools and Libraries

Tribal Library E-Rate Advocacy Program

T-LEAP

Connecting Tribal Libraries to affordable high-speed Internet service



E-Rate: Universal Service Program for Schools and Libraries

Tribal Library E-Rate Advocacy Program

One-on-one support, tools, and resources to pilot participants to help apply for E-Rate funding to extend telecommunications infrastructure and information services to Tribal libraries.

In 2022 and 2023, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) unanimously approved two orders (FCC 22-8 and FCC 23-56), making changes to the E-Rate rules to make it easier for Tribal libraries to apply and receive funding, while also expanding eligibility to Tribal College and University (TCU) libraries that serve as a public library for their communities.

We invite you to join the Tribal Libraries E-Rate Pilot Program cohort.

- ✓ Pilot program facilitated by the experts at USAC who administer the FCC's E-Rate program.
- ✓ One-on-one assistance during all aspects of preparing, applying, and receiving E-Rate support during the upcoming funding year.
- ✓ Full program life-cycle support and assistance - - including invoicing and other post commitment processes.
- ✓ Cohort-Based Learning/Support Model



How can I find out more information and apply to participate?

If you are interested in participating in the Tribal Libraries E-Rate Advocacy Program, you can fill out a brief form online at <https://tinyurl.com/T-LEAP>. Interested Tribal libraries should be prepared to provide a brief description about your library, including existing broadband resources and what broadband services your library would like to offer to its library patrons, information about its eligibility as a Tribal library, a point of contact, and Tribal affiliation. Participants will be expected to provide feedback about the E-Rate application and post-commitment processes, so that we can continue to simplify and enhance the program experience for Tribal library applicants.

We are accepting applications year round.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AS A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT?

- 1 Guided training and hands-on support navigating the E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC) system including: how to set up an EPC account and profile for you Tribal library, seek competitive bids, and file requests for funding.
- 2 Knowledge sharing and best practices to avoid common mistakes, application errors, or program compliance issues.
- 3 Ongoing support throughout the application process, competitive bidding, invoicing, and other post-commitment processes (i.e., the service confirmation and Children's Internet Protection Act certification and service substitution requests).