



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

March 22, 2023

Dear Tribal Leader:

On behalf of Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel, you are cordially invited by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to participate in an upcoming consultation regarding the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to address Tribal schools' and libraries' barriers to participation in the E-Rate Program. The NPRM is available online at <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-23-10A1.pdf>. This consultation will be held virtually.

Registration: All attendees must register. To register, please send an email message to tribal.events@fcc.gov by Wednesday, April 12, 2023. Please include the names and titles of anyone attending and include the Tribal affiliation. You are encouraged to bring staff and library, school, and information technology (IT) representatives from your Nation to the Tribal consultation as observers. If you cannot personally attend and wish to designate a proxy(ies), please specify who is authorized to speak on your behalf in the registration email. You may also send any questions to tribal.events@fcc.gov, as this email address is monitored by the FCC's Office of Native Affairs and Policy.

Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023

Time: 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. EDT

Host: FCC Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Office of Native Affairs and Policy

Location: Virtual (Link provided upon registration.)

Summary: The FCC's Schools and Libraries Program, commonly known as the E-Rate Program, provides support for eligible schools and libraries to access Internet service, internal connections (e.g., Wi-Fi network equipment, routers, modems, cabling), basic maintenance of internal connections, and managed internal broadband service (e.g., managed Wi-Fi). The FCC would like to learn from Tribal Leaders, Tribal school and library representatives, Tribal IT staff, and other Tribal representatives about the barriers that your school and/or library experiences regarding the E-Rate Program, and your suggestions on how to make the program more accessible to your institutions.

Tribal libraries play a significant role in providing access to Internet service in Indian country. Our shared goal is to ensure that all Tribal libraries are able to take advantage of the E-Rate Program. On February 16, 2023, the FCC adopted an NPRM seeking comment on steps the FCC can take to address barriers and encourage greater participation by Tribal schools and libraries in the E-Rate Program, including proposals to simplify the E-Rate forms and cost allocation requirements, to enhance E-Rate support for Internet connections to schools and libraries, and to

allow Tribal college libraries that also serve as the community's public library to be eligible for support.

The deadline to submit written comments in response to the NPRM is **Monday, April 24, 2023**. The deadline to submit written reply comments is **Tuesday, May 23, 2023**. Written comments can be submitted to TribalE-RateNPRM@fcc.gov or in the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System at <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings/standard>. Please include CC Docket Nos. 02-6, 96-45, and 97-21 in your written responses regarding this NPRM. Interested parties are also welcome to submit information for this proceeding after the May 23, 2023 deadline, if additional time is needed.

Included with this letter is the Framing Paper that provides additional information about the NPRM, and the questions that we kindly request that you consider. You can also find further information about FCC's Tribal libraries initiatives and how to participate in the E-Rate Program at <https://www.fcc.gov/tribal-libraries> and <https://www.usac.org/e-rate/>.

We hope that you will be able to participate in this important discussion and we value your time and participation. If you have questions regarding this consultation, you can also contact Bambi.Kraus@fcc.gov.

Sincerely,



Alejandro Roark
Bureau Chief
Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau



Bambi Kraus
Chief, Office of Native Affairs and Policy
Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau

Attachment: Framing Paper for Tribal Consultation on April 13, 2023.