



Schools & Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program Overview

For a copy of today's presentation, go to <https://www.ohio-k12.help/e-rate-support/resource-library/>

Pilot Program Overview

- FCC established a three-year Pilot Program to provide up to \$200 million in Universal Service Fund support to participating eligible schools, libraries, and consortia of schools and libraries, to defray the costs of eligible cybersecurity services and equipment.
- Pilot Program will evaluate the effectiveness of using USF funding to support cybersecurity services and equipment to protect school and library broadband networks and data.

Pilot Program Eligibility

- Schools, libraries, and consortia of schools and libraries, that are eligible for support under the [E-Rate Program](#) can participate in the Pilot Program.
- Prior or current E-Rate participation is not a requirement to be eligible to apply for the Pilot Program.

Pilot Program Participant Selection

- To facilitate the inclusion of a diverse set of Pilot projects and to target Pilot funds to the populations most in need of cybersecurity support, the FCC will award support to a combination of large and small and urban and rural schools, libraries, and consortia, with an emphasis on funding proposed Pilot projects that include low-income and Tribal applicants.

Pilot Program Eligibility

- Participant may seek reimbursement for a wide variety of cybersecurity services and equipment, subject to per-student/per-library budgets
- Four general categories of eligible services and equipment:
 - Advanced/next generation firewalls;
 - Endpoint protection;
 - Identity protection and authentication; and
 - Monitoring, detection and response.
- A detailed list of eligible equipment and services is available at [Cybersecurity Pilot Program Eligible Services List](#). Note: Basic firewalls are not CPP eligible because they are eligible for E-Rate; however, advanced firewall features are eligible for CPP.

How Much Funding is Available?

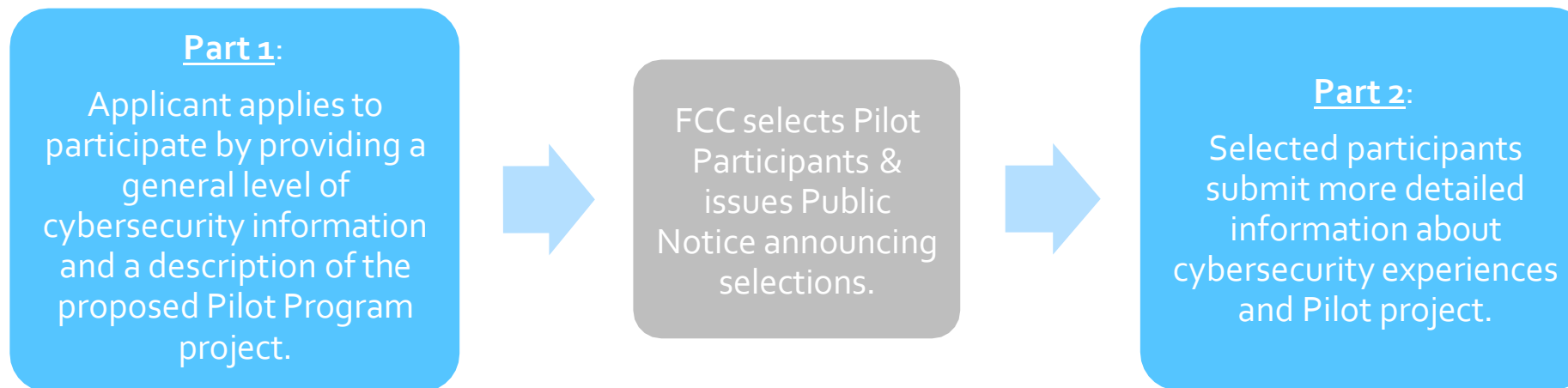
- Funding amounts are *pre-discount amounts*. Selected participants must pay their non-discounted share of the eligible services and equipment costs, using the E-Rate Category 1 discount matrix.
- The \$200 million available is the total amount available, not an annual amount.
- **Schools:** Each school is eligible to receive up to \$13.60 per student, annually, on a pre-discount basis.
 - There is a pre-discount minimum annual floor of \$15,000/year if the school or district has 1,100 or fewer students,
 - and a pre-discount maximum of \$1.5 million/year.
- **Libraries:** Each library is eligible to receive a pre-discount budget of \$15,000 annually up to 11 libraries/sites. For library systems with more than 11 libraries/sites, the budget will be up to \$175,000 pre-discount annually.

How Much Funding is Available?

- **Consortia:** Consortia comprised of eligible schools and libraries will be eligible to receive funding based on student count, using the annual pre-discount \$13.60 per-student multiplier and \$1.5 million annual pre-discount funding caps, and the number of library sites, using the pre-discount \$15,000 annual per-library budget up to 11 libraries/sites and \$175,000 annual pre-discount funding cap.
 - Consortia comprised of both eligible schools and libraries will be subject to the pre-discount \$1.5 million annual budget maximum applicable to schools.
- **Note:** Each amount mentioned is per year, so multiply the amounts times 3.
 - Pilot participants may request reimbursement for expenses as they are incurred even if it means that the amount of funding disbursed in a given year of the program exceeds their annual budget (for example, you can purchase a 3-year MFA license and receive reimbursement for the full amount in year 1).
 - Also, these amounts will not impact the E-Rate Category 2 budgets because CPP is an entirely different program.

Pilot Program Application Process

- **What is the process for applying to participate?**
 - The **FCC Form 484 application** will be a two-part process:



- A listing of the types of general and detailed information applicants and participants must submit is provided in the Report and Order.
- The FCC expects to open a Pilot Program application window this Fall.

Pilot Program Application Process

- There will only be one application cycle (**not one each year**), and it will be conducted in two parts.
 - First, this fall, applicants will submit a **Form 484(a)**, on which they will provide general information about the schools and libraries seeking support, their experience with cybersecurity matters; whether they expect to implement cybersecurity recommended best practices; and their current or expected use of free or low-cost federal resources.
 - Applicants will also be required to provide information about the proposed Pilot project, including a description of the goals and objectives to be achieved; the services and equipment to be purchased (and associated costs); and the cybersecurity risks the proposed Pilot project will prevent or address. See paragraph **63** of the [Cybersecurity Order](#) for detailed information on what information will be collected on Form 484(a).

Pilot Program Application Process

- Next, FCC and USAC officials will review applications and select participants, which will be announced in an FCC Public Notice.
- If selected to participate in the Pilot Program, you will then be required to submit Form **484(b)**, on which they will provide more detailed information about their cybersecurity experiences, such as their current cybersecurity posture, including how the school or library is currently managing and addressing cybersecurity risks through prevention and mitigation tactics; history of cyber threats and attacks (within a year of the date of the application); current cybersecurity training policies and procedures; and cybersecurity challenges faced.
- **Forms 484(b) will be hidden from public view due to the sensitive information** on the form. See paragraph **74** of the [Cybersecurity Order](#) for detailed information on what information will be collected on Form 484(b).

FCC Site To Access Order - Cybersecurity Order

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FCC Adopts \$200M Cybersecurity Pilot Program for Schools & Libraries

Full Title: Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program
Document Type: Report and Order
Bureau(s): Wireline Competition

Description:
The FCC adopts a three-year pilot program within the Universal Service Fund to provide up to \$200 million to support cybersecurity services and equipment for eligible schools and libraries.

DA/FCC #: FCC-24-63
Docket No: 23-234

Document Dates
Released On: Jun 11, 2024
Adopted Date: Jun 6, 2024
Issued On: Jun 11, 2024

Files

- Report and Order: [Docx](#) [Pdf](#) [Txt](#)
- News Release: [Docx](#) [Pdf](#) [Txt](#)
- Erratum: [Docx](#)
- Rosenworcel Statement: [Docx](#) [Pdf](#) [Txt](#)
- Starks Statement: [Docx](#) [Pdf](#) [Txt](#)

63. *Part One Application Information.* For the first part of the FCC Form 484 application, we direct the Bureau and USAC to collect a general level of cybersecurity information from schools, libraries, and consortia that apply to participate in the Pilot Program. At a minimum, applications to participate in the Pilot Program must contain the following required information:

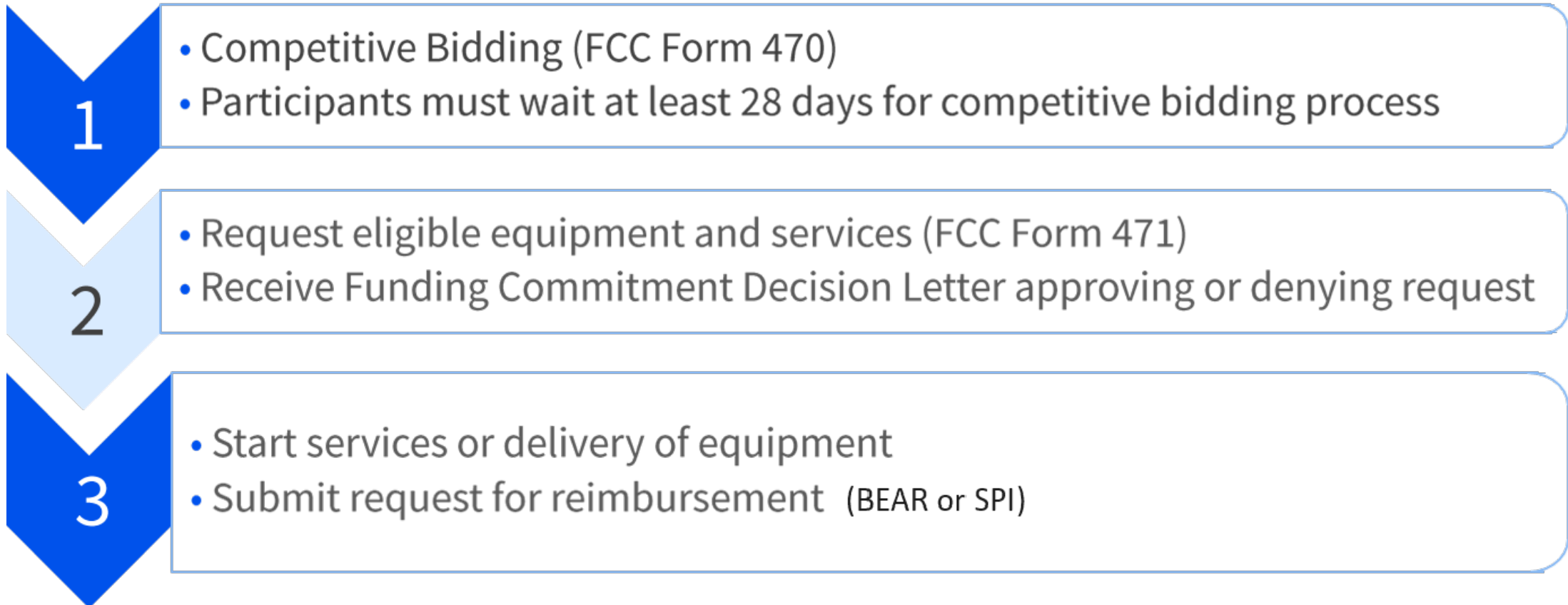
- Names, entity numbers, FCC registration numbers, employer identification numbers, addresses, and telephone numbers for all schools, libraries, and consortium members that will participate in the proposed Pilot project, including the identity of the consortium leader for any proposals involving consortia.
- Contact information for the individual(s) who will be responsible for the management and operation of the proposed Pilot project (name, title or position, telephone number, mailing address, and email address).

Pilot Program – Be Prepared To Provide:

- Description of the Pilot participant's current cybersecurity posture, including any cybersecurity services and equipment the applicant already has in place, how the school or library is currently managing and addressing its current cybersecurity risk and a description of its existing and/or proposed cybersecurity program or framework.
- Description of the cybersecurity threats or attacks faced by the applicant, including the date range of the incident, the duration and impact of the threats or attacks, and information about the malicious cyber actors that perpetrated the threats or attacks, if known.
- Description of the applicant's proposed use of the Cybersecurity Pilot Program funding to protect its broadband networks and data and improve its ability to address K-12 cyber concerns.
- Description of any data the applicant will require service providers to track, measure, and collect to assess the cost-effectiveness of the Cybersecurity Pilot Program-funded cybersecurity services and equipment.
- Description of any data the applicant will require service providers to track, measure, and collect to assess the applicant's cybersecurity posture, awareness, and readiness.
- Description of how the applicant plans to track, measure, and collect information about the impact the Cybersecurity Pilot Program funding has on the applicant's cybersecurity posture.
- A listing of mandatory free or low-cost cybersecurity resources the applicant expects its service providers to implement and utilize.

Pilot Program Process for Participants

Pilot Program will follow processes established in E Rate program



Pilot Program Get Ready

- The Pilot Program application process (FCC Form 484) will open this fall
- Begin evaluating your school or library's cybersecurity needs
 - Set goals and objectives for participation
 - Identify risks the Pilot Program can help address
 - Determine cybersecurity experience and expertise
 - Identify designated cybersecurity officer or senior staff member
 - Catalogue services and equipment to be purchased

Pilot Program Get Ready

You can start now by:

- [Obtaining an FCC registration number \(FRN\)](#) or locating your existing registration number if you already have one. An FRN is needed to apply for Pilot Program support.
- Obtaining a [Billed Entity Number \(BEN\)](#) and creating a user profile in the [E-Rate Productivity Center \(EPC\)](#).
- Verifying that you are not currently in [red light status](#) at the FCC or on the U.S. Treasury's [do not pay list](#). If you are, you should continue attempts to resolve these issues. You may not be eligible to receive Pilot Program support until debts or other delinquencies are resolved.
- Registering with the System for Award Management at [SAM.gov](#). It may take an estimated 10- 20 days for your registration to become active. Although an active SAM.gov registration is not required to apply for Pilot Program support, it is required to receive funds from the Program.

Pilot Program Get Ready

Evaluate your cybersecurity needs

- The Pilot Program permits schools and libraries to select from a wide variety of cybersecurity services and equipment to best meet their needs.
- Start planning now to determine what you want to achieve through your participation in the Pilot Program and what services and equipment you may want to purchase. Applicants will be required to provide information regarding the risks the project will prevent or address, the goals and objectives to be achieved, their cybersecurity experience and expertise, and the services and equipment to purchase.

You may wish to consult other federal resources available through the Department of Homeland Security's [Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency](#) and the [Department of Education](#) to help evaluate vulnerabilities and identify additional protections for your broadband networks and system data.

To learn more about the Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program, please sign up for [Pilot Program emails](#).

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