

# Filing the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) Form 471 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Window



# What is the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF)

- \$7.171 passed by Congress passed the American Rescue Plan on 3/11/2021
- Provides funding to schools and libraries to enable remote (off-campus) learning for students, staff and library patrons who lack sufficient internet access and/or connected devices
- Funding not just for schools that are conducting virtual education
  - Intended to help solve Homework Gap as well
  - Anywhere that a student learns when not on school campus
  - Any library patron can benefit (not just students or remote learning)
- ECF Relationship to E-Rate:
  - E-Rate provides *discounts* between 20-90% for *on-campus* connections and *in-building* data transmission equipment
  - ECF covers 100% of cost up to cap for off-campus use
  - ECF uses same EPC log-in credentials, but has entirely different rules, eligible services/equipment and deadlines

### ECF Windows 1 & 2

- Application Windows 1 & 2 covered unmet needs from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022
  - Equipment/services had to be received on/after July 1, 2021
  - Orders were permitted to be placed prior to July 1, 2021
- FCC extended this cycle through June 30, 2023
  - New FY 2021 eligible dates: 7/1/2021 –6/30/2023
  - Only 12 months of Internet access permitted during this 24month period
- Reimbursement deadline for Windows 1 & 2 is August 29, 2023
- A total of \$5.8B was requested
  - \$4.7B committed to date
  - \$558M disbursed to date
- At least \$1B remains and will be available in ECF Window 3

### **ECF Window 3**

- Window 3 Application Window:
  - April 28, 2022 May 13, 2022
- Application Window 3 will cover unmet needs from:
  - July 1, 2022 December 31, 2023
  - Equipment/services must be received on/after July 1, 2022
  - Orders may be placed prior to July 1, 2022
- Only 12 months of Internet access permitted during this 18-month period
  - Cannot overlap service months from Windows 1 & 2
- Applicants that received funding in Windows 1 & 2 can apply for additional funding if unmet needs remain
- Reimbursement deadline for Window 3 is February 29, 2024
- All other eligibility/rules remain the same as Windows 1 & 2
- Will likely be last ECF application window unless Congress appropriates more \$

### **Funding Process – Next Steps**

### **Funding Priority:**

- If the demand exceeds the amount of available funds, applications will be funded in order of priority based on:
  - Location (rural or urban)
  - Highest E-Rate discount rate funded first
  - Rural schools/libraries funded before urban
    - Rural locations will receive a 5% "bump" in priority

	Emergency Connectivity Fund Prioritization Matrix Discount Level	
% of students eligible for National School Lunch Program	Urban	Rural
< 1	1220 1040 850 660 480 290	1130 955 765 575 385 195

# Who Is Eligible to Apply

- All schools and libraries eligible for E-Rate funding are eligible for ECF
  - Not required to currently participate in E-rate
- All ECF forms are filed in USAC's One Portal System (where EPC is housed)
- Organization must have up-to-date registration in federal SAM.gov system
  - Registration is not required to be completed at the ECF Form 471 application stage but must be done before an ECF reimbursement can be received
    - If using the SPI method, this is not required by the school/library
  - All ECF reimbursements will be made to bank account connected to SAM.gov account (not account listed on E-Rate Form 498)
  - All ECF reimbursement deposit notifications will be sent to SAM.gov contact (not ECF contact), so be sure this contact info is accurate
  - SAM.gov registration is free (don't pay a fee to someone to do it)

<sup>\*</sup>All **E-Rate** and ECF applicants will need a SAM.gov registration in the near future, more to come on that down the road!!

## **Application Process**

- No E-Rate bidding requirements
  - NO Form 470!!
  - May request a quote from vendor for new hardware and/or service to show cost, or use an existing bill for current recurring service
  - Contracts are not required under the ECF Program rules
  - You must follow any state/local procurement rules
- Vendors are not required to have a SPIN to participate (we'll talk about exceptions to this).

## What is Eligible for ECF

### **Eligible Services/Locations:**

- Anywhere education occurs off-campus (homes, Community centers, Churches, etc.)
- Includes school buses and bookmobiles
- Network buildout if no commercial service offered
  - Applicant must document need
  - Equipment/services may not be purchased solely for use at school or library; however, the devices may be brought to the school/library

### Recipients:

- K-12 students, teachers, paraprofessionals with Unmet Needs
- Library patrons with Unmet Needs
- "Unmet Need" the person who does not otherwise have "sufficient" internet access or access to a connected device to engage in remote learning when off campus

### What is Eligible for ECF

### **Broadband Services:**

- 1 hotspot/user
- 1 fixed connection/home
- Monthly recurring service costs
- No minimum standards for speeds/service
- Recipients of Windows 1 & 2 ECF can apply for continuation of internet services in Window 3
  - Cannot overlap months
  - ECF Windows 1 & 2 will pay for 12 months of service between 7/1/2021 –6/30/2023
  - Window 3 will pay for 12 months of service between 7/1/2022 12/31/2023
- In Form 471 Narrative list:
  - Windows 1 and/or 2 FRN numbers and actual service delivery dates
  - Window 3 requested service delivery dates

### What is Eligible for ECF

### **Equipment:**

- Wi-Fi hotspots
  - \$250 cap on Wi-Fi hotspots (this does not apply to Wi-Fi hardware for buses)
  - Cap does not include monthly internet service costs
  - Cap does not apply if the hot spot is serving multiple users, such as a school bus location.
    - Explain in FRN narrative that X number of users are being served
- Modem/routers
- Laptops/tablets up to \$400
  - One device per student/staff allowed
  - No allowance for breakage or spares
  - No applicant budgets like Category 2
  - Chromebook licenses and manufacturer warranties are eligible but only if they are bundled with the cost of the laptop (cannot be a separate cost)

### **Reimbursement Options**

### **BEAR Method:**

- 100% reimbursement after purchase of eligible service/equipment
  - May purchase prior to ECF funding decision but it's a gamble!
- "Pre-reimbursement" option reimbursement prior to equipment purchase
  - Helpful so you're not carrying project cost
  - Requires waiting on ECF funding decision
  - Will be required to show purchasing decision/contract
  - Must sends funds on to provider within 30 days

### **SPI Method:**

- Service provider files for reimbursement
  - You will need to indicate on Form 471 your preference, and
  - Show service provider's willingness to filing the SPI
  - Service providers are not required to agree
  - Only providers with a SPIN will be able to file a SPI

# FCC FAQ's



### **Eligible Equipment and Services:**

#### Q: Is a license to use a connected device eligible for ECF support?

A: Licenses included in the base price of the connected devices are eligible for support and do not require cost allocation, but separately priced licenses are **ineligible** for ECF funding.

#### Q: Can a school or library seek ECF support to implement filtering services on their computers?

A: No. The costs of implementing CIPA compliance are not eligible for reimbursement through the ECF Program.

# Q: Will the ECF Program support installation and configuration performed by a third-party vendor that is different from the vendor that sold the equipment to the applicant?

A: No. Installation and configuration costs will only be eligible for ECF support if they are provided by the same vendor that is providing the eligible equipment.

#### Q: Do eligible connected devices need to be capable of connecting to a cellular service (LTE or 5G)?

A: No. While laptop computers and tablet computers must be capable of connecting to broadband internet in order to be eligible for funding as a connected device, they do not need to be capable of connecting via a cellular service.

#### Q: Are Chromebooks and iPads eligible as connected devices?

A: Yes. Chromebooks may be requested under the laptop equipment category.

# **Ineligible ECF Items**

- Desktops
- Smartphones
- Spare equipment/parts
- Software
- Filtering
- Firewalls/services
- Backup power equipment
- VPN licenses
- White Glove installation

- Microphones (stand-alone)
- Cameras (stand-alone)
- Accessories (bags, headsets, etc.)
- Technical support
- Accidental device protection or insurance-type warranties
  - Warranties up to 3 years that are bundled at no cost are eligible
- Remote learning subscriptions (Zoom)

**Duplicate funding prohibition:** Applicants cannot seek ECF funding for equipment or service that have already been or will be purchased with other targeted pandemic funding

### **Eligible Equipment and Services:**

#### Q: Can applicants prepay and seek support for multi-year contracts?

A: No. Applicants may only seek support for up to 12 months of the monthly costs of services delivered between July 1, 2022, and December 31, 2023. Approved applicants may not seek reimbursement until after the services have been delivered.

# Q: Can applicants pre-pay for a year of services and seek reimbursement as soon as they have a funding commitment?

A: No. Approved applicants cannot invoice for services that have not yet been received.

#### Q: Who owns the equipment purchased with ECF support?

A: Schools and libraries, as the applicants, will own the equipment purchased with ECF support.

#### **Unmet Need:**

Q: How should applicants determine their unmet needs?

A: The FCC has not prescribed a specific way for applicants to go about estimating what they will need to address unmet needs.

In the case of schools, applicants should provide their best estimates about the number of students who did not have access to adequate connected devices, broadband connections, or both when the pandemic began; the number of students who do not currently have adequate access; and how the applicant expects those numbers to change with the requested ECF Program support.

While the FCC has not dictated specific data collection requirements for estimating the unmet for students, schools must describe **how and when** they collected the information that they use for the estimates provided in their responses.

There is no such data collection requirement for libraries to estimate the unmet need for library patrons. However, both schools and libraries must certify that they are seeking support for eligible equipment and/or services for students, school staff, and/or library patrons that would otherwise lack adequate access.

Q: I don't know exactly how many students lack broadband access at home. What should I do?

A: At the application stage, schools just need best estimates of their unmet need to request funding.

When it is time to invoice, schools may only request ECF reimbursement for services that fulfilled an actual unmet need of a student or staff member, consistent with the application certification. Schools may also be asked to provide documentation to support actual costs of services to those students and staff after funds have been committed.

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#### **Unmet Need:**

Q: Could a school district use the district's National School Lunch Program (NSLP) percentage, or other publicly available data to provide best estimates on its ECF FCC Form 471 application, and then collect a certification from students or staff before seeking reimbursement for the device or service?

A: Yes. Again, only best estimates of the unmet need are required for schools at the time they submit their application. It is up to the school to determine how to estimate need. Schools may also be asked to provide documentation to support actual costs of assigned equipment and/or services after funds have been committed. A student or staff certification collected after the application but before receiving service/equipment may be an appropriate way to ensure the school is only seeking reimbursement for those students and staff with unmet need.

Q: What will school applicants need related to unmet need at the different stages of the ECF Program process (e.g., application, invoicing, or audits)?

A: At the application stage, schools just need best estimates of their unmet need. They may use whatever method they deem appropriate for estimating unmet need and are not required to provide any documentation to support these estimates when they submit their ECF FCC Form 471 application.

When schools file for reimbursement, they should only request reimbursement for eligible equipment and services provided to students or staff who would otherwise lack broadband services and/or devices sufficient to engage in remote learning.

All applicants should also maintain documentation supporting their compliance with ECF Program rules.

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#### Sample Needs Survey

1	Door oach saha	al are shild in the home have access to	device for learning online (this does not	
1.	Does each school-age child in the home have access to a device for learning online (this does not include a smartphone)?			
	0	Yes		
	0	No		
		If no, how many devices would be	needed?	
2.	If a device is av	ailable, what type of technology is it? (ch	eck all that apply)	
	0	Desktop PC		
	0	Laptop		
		iPad		
		Android tablet		
		Chromebook		
	0	Other (please specify)		
3.	What type of In	iternet access do you have at home?		
	0	Broadband (fiber, cable modem, DSL, sa	itellite, etc.)	
	0	Dial-up		
	0	Only have access to the Internet on my	cell phone	
	0	Mobile hotspot		
	0	Do not have access to the Internet		
4.	If you have Inte	rnet access, is it adequate to allow remo	te learning for <b>all</b> students in the household	
	concurrently?	,		
	,	Yes		
	0	No		
Na	ame of individua	ll completing the survey:		
Na	ame of student:_		Grade level:	
Na	ame of student:_		Grade level:	
N	ame of student:_		Grade level:	
	Name of student: Grade level:			

# **Sample Survey**

#### **Hotspot Lending Agreement**

#### Guidelines for Borrowing and Use Outside of the Library

Patrons must be **16 years of age or older** and must read, understand, and sign this agreement at the Circulation Desk in the presence of a library staff member **each time** a Mobile Hotspot is checked out.

Patrons under the age of 18 MUST have a signature from a parent/guardian to check out a Mobile Hotspot. A valid library account AND a valid photo identification must be presented at the time of checkout.

Patrons must be in good standing with the library, with a **current address** on file and **no fines above \$5**. Mobile Hotspots may be checked out for **four weeks** with **no renewals**.

Hotspots MUST BE RETURNED TO A STAFF MEMBER AT THE CIRCULATION DESK, and NOT placed in the book drop.

Overdue Mobile Hotspots will be deactivated within 24 hours of the due date.

#### Fines and Liability

- The overdue fine for the Hotspot and its components is \$2.00 per day until returned.
- The patron is responsible for costs associated with loss, theft, or damage of the Mobile Hotspot and/or peripherals.
- Abuse of the Mobile Hotspot program will result in a loss of borrowing privileges.

#### Mobile Hotspot Replacement Costs

Mobile Hotspot Unit...\$192

Power Adapter/Cord...\$25

Case... \$10

Total Replacement Cost: \$227

I agree to abide by the guidelines as stated above, and pay any overdue fines, \$2.00 per day until returned. I understand that if I return the Mobile Hotspot to a book drop, or to another library, I will be charged a \$25 fine, and I agree to pay full replacement costs should the Mobile Hotspot be lost, stolen, or damaged. I understand that abuse of the Mobile Hotspot program may result in the loss of my borrowing privileges. I have read this entire document and my signature below indicates my agreement to the terms and conditions outlined above and my need of the hotspot is due

to a lack of adequate Internet access. I understand that the Mobile Hotspot does not provide content filtering and I accept the responsibility to monitor any minor who may access the Internet via this hotspot.:

Library Card #	Device Serial Number:	
Phone#	Mailing Address:	
Print Name	Signature	
Parent /Guardian Print Name (For Patron	s under 18)	_ Signature

# Sample Library Hotspot Agreement

### **Eligible Uses:**

Q: Which school staff are eligible to receive equipment and services eligible for ECF support?

A: School staff that provide educational services to students, such as teachers and para-professionals that work with students in the classroom, **including the virtual classroom**, are eligible to receive ECF-funded equipment and services.

Q: For parked school buses or other multi-user locations, are other members of the community, besides students and school staff, permitted to use the internet access?

A: No, other members of the community are not permitted to use the services. Internet access must be primarily used for educational purposes and is limited to intended users.

Q: Can an applicant request funding for connected devices or Wi-Fi hotspots for all of its students as part of a 1:1 device initiative?

A: No. Applicants must certify, as part of their funding application, that they are only seeking support for eligible equipment and services provided to students and school staff who would otherwise lack access to connected devices or broadband services.

### **CIPA Requirements:**

Q: Do the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) requirements apply for all equipment that is eligible for ECF support?

A: No. CIPA requirements apply **only to school- or library-owned computers** (e.g., tablets and laptops), and **only when the school or library receives ECF or E-Rate support** for internet access or internet services, or E-Rate support for internal connections.

We correct an earlier version of this FAQ to make clear that while CIPA does not impose any requirements on Wi-Fi hotspot devices, the purchase through ECF of such Wi-Fi hotspots would qualify as network equipment and would require CIPA compliance for the **school's or library's computers**.

Q: Do CIPA requirements apply if a school or library owns computers (regardless of how the computers were funded) and receives ECF or E-Rate support for internet service?

A: Yes. CIPA requirements apply to school- or library-owned computers when the school or library receives ECF or E-Rate support for internet access or internet services, or E-Rate support for internal connections—or network equipment for internet access, internet service, or internal connections.

Q: If a school or library that is not currently participating in the E-Rate program already owns computers when it applies for ECF funding for the broadband connections, should the school or library certify to CIPA compliance?

A: Yes. To receive ECF funding, an applicant must certify either that its devices are in compliance with CIPA requirements or, at a minimum, that it is undertaking the actions necessary to comply with CIPA requirements.

### **CIPA Requirements:**

Q: Do CIPA requirements apply to a student-, school staff-, or library patron-owned computer if it uses an ECF-funded broadband connection?

A: No. CIPA does not apply to the use of third-party owned devices, even if the school or library receives ECF support for the broadband connection.

Q: If applicants have not yet certified to CIPA compliance for FY2021 in the E-Rate program, will they be required to certify their CIPA compliance status on their ECF application?

A: Yes. Applicants that have not certified their compliance in an FCC Form 486 or FCC Form 479 for the current funding year in the E-Rate program will be asked to certify their CIPA compliance status on the ECF FCC Form 471.

Q: Can a school or library seek ECF support to implement filtering services on their computers?

A: No. The costs of implementing CIPA compliance are not eligible for reimbursement through the ECF Program.

### **Record Retention Requirements:**

# Q: Do I need to modify my library inventory system to track all of the required recordkeeping data in a single report?

A: No. While a library is responsible for retaining all of the information required by the Commission's rules, it does not need to be managed or maintained in a particular format. Libraries can determine how they format, extract and save the required data.

# Q: Do schools and libraries need to keep documentation of the specific students, school staff, or library patrons who receive ECF-supported service or equipment?

A: Applicants do need to document the students, school staff, and library patrons served at each location and must retain that information for at least 10 years from the last date of service or delivery of equipment. To the extent Commission or USAC staff needs access to this information, for example, for audit purposes, they will request and safeguard this information in accordance with the applicable privacy laws and guidance, including using de-identified and anonymized information whenever possible.

#### Q: Are applicants obligated to repair devices that break before the three-year mark?

A: No. However, it is the obligation of schools and libraries to keep track of and document the devices and other equipment that they distribute, and that includes documenting information about missing, lost, or damaged equipment.

### **Record Retention Requirements:**

# Q: What would a public library need to do if a patron moves and does not return an ECF-funded connected device?

A: The library must keep track of and document the devices and other equipment that they distribute, and that includes documenting information about missing, lost, or damaged equipment. Libraries can establish their own policies around missing, lost, or damaged equipment and patron responsibilities.

#### 8.5 Q: What documents am I required to retain and for how long do I need to keep them?

As part of the record retention requirements established in the Order, we require applicants to retain for 10 years asset inventories for each connected device or other piece of equipment provided to an individual student, school staff member, or library patron. The asset inventory must identify: 1) the device or equipment type; 2) the device or equipment make/model; 3) the device or equipment serial number; 4) the full name of the person to whom the device or other piece of equipment was provided; and 5) the dates the device or other piece of equipment was loaned out and returned, or the date the school or library was notified that the device or other piece of equipment was missing, lost, or damaged.

Applicants must also retain a record of services purchased with ECF support. The record of services must include the following information: (a) type of service provided (i.e., DSL, cable, fiber, fixed wireless, satellite, mobile wireless); (b) broadband plan details, including: upload and download speeds and monthly data cap; (c) the name(s) of the person(s) to whom the service was provided; and for fixed broadband service; (d) the service address, and (e) the installation date of service: and (f) the last date of service (as applicable).

### **Invoicing Process:**

# Q: Do approved applicants that receive recurring monthly services need to submit invoices within 60 days of each monthly invoice?

A: No. For recurring services that are invoiced on a monthly or periodic basis, approved applicants may invoice within 60 days of the last date of service (i.e., they must invoice at least once by August 30, 2023, for services received through June 30, 2023).

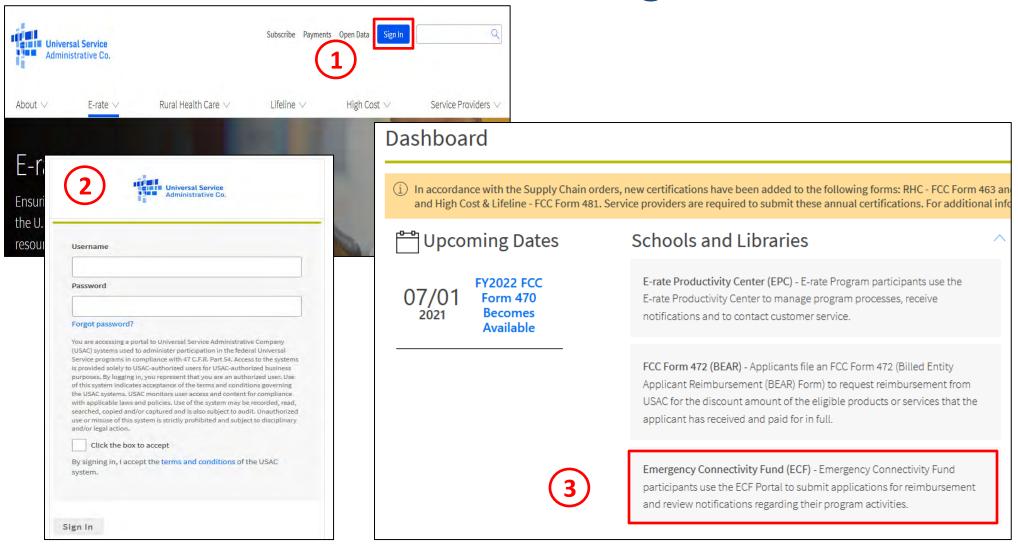
# Q: What should an applicant or service provider submit along with a request for reimbursement (ECF Form 472/474)?

A: Each request for reimbursement must be accompanied by a vendor invoice supporting the amount requested. Vendor invoices must include the level of detail needed for USAC to validate the following information during its review of this supporting documentation.

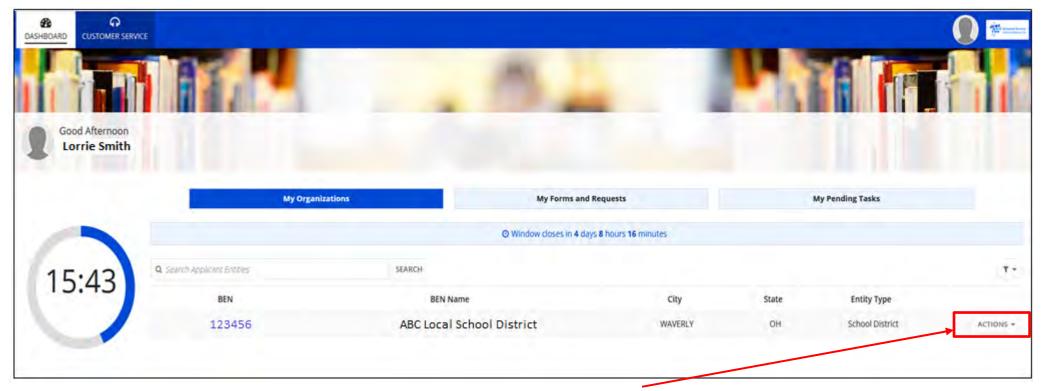
- A date of the service for non-recurring charges, or a bill date for recurring charges that is consistent with what was entered on the ECF Form 472/474.
- A date of the service or bill that is acceptable based on the relevant funding period.
- The equipment or services provided are the same as what was approved on the ECF Form 471 (unless modified pursuant to an approved post-commitment change) and are at or below the price approved on the ECF FCC Form 471.
- The service provider who provided the equipment or services is the same as the service provider approved on the ECF FCC Form 471

### **Application Process**

- 1. Determine "unmet needs"
- 2. Obtain vendor quotes (contracts not required)
- 3. Submit ECF Form 471 in the One Portal system between April 28 May 13, 2022
- 4. USAC will review all applications submitted "in-window" and size demand to determine which applications can be funded
  - Applicants may receive PIA inquiries, just like E-Rate
- 5. Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDL) will be issued in biweekly waves
  - No Form 486 required
- 6. Obtain signed Unmet Needs Statements
- 7. Deliver/loan equipment/services
- 8. Applicants or vendors seek reimbursement from ECF Fund
- Funds deposited into school/library/vendor bank accounts connected to SAM.gov



Go to <a href="https://www.usac.org/e-rate/">https://www.usac.org/e-rate/</a> and click on "Sign In" and log into OnePortal. You should now see the "Emergency Connectivity (ECF)" option listed. Click to select.



To start an application, click on the "Actions" pull-down and then "File FCC Form 471". Depending on your browser, the application may open in a new tab.

If you leave the application before completing it, click on "My Pending Tasks" and then on the "Create FCC Form 471" hyperlink.

	My Organi	zations	My Applications	My Pending Tasks	
Pending Task	BEN	BEN Name	Application Number	Application Nickname	
Create FCC Form 471 (Ben: 125213) - ECF202100912	123456	ABC Local School District	ECF202100912	Test ECF Application	



Start by entering a nickname, whatever you choose it to be.

Click "Yes" for main contact to populate your information. Provide alternate contact information so you can be reached over the holiday/summer break.

Click on "Save & Continue".



The form will show a summary of the district/school, indicating Total Student Count and your Urban/Rural status. Click on "Save & Continue".

### \*Libraries do not see these questions!

### **Demonstrating Need**

FCC Form 471 - Emergency Co	onnectivity Fund		
ABC Local School District (BEN 1	.23456) - FY2021 ECF Application		
Last Saved: 6/29/2021 3:49 PM EDT			
Basic Information	Entity Information F	unding Requests Co	ertify
Information for Unmet Student Need	ds		
Based on whatever information you have available to you, please pr	rovide your best estimates in responses to the following questions.		
At the start of the pandemic, how many students in your school	ol or school district lacked access to:		
A connected device (laptop or tablet) that was sufficient to engage	age in remote learning *		0
• A broadband connection that was sufficient to engage in remot	te learning *		127
Both a connected device and a broadband connection that were	re sufficient to engage in remote learning *		0
During the 2020-2021 school year, how many students in your s	school or school district did you provide:		
A connected device, because they otherwise would not have ha	ad a connected device that was sufficient to engage in remote learning? *		Ò
• A broadband connection, because they otherwise would not ha	eve had a broadband connection that was sufficient to engage in remote learning? *		127
Both a connected device and a broadband connection, because	e they otherwise would not have had a connected device or a broadband connection	that was sufficient to engage in remote learning? *	120
With the funding you are requesting from the Emergency Conn	nectivity Fund Program, how many students in your school or school district wil	I you provide with:	
A connected device, because they would otherwise not have a connected device.	connected device that is sufficient to engage in remote learning? *	Include number of teachers if	0
A broadband connection, because they otherwise would not ha	eve had a broadband connection that was sufficient to engage in remote learning? *	asking for device/service for th	em 127
▶ Both a connected device and a broadband connection, because	e they otherwise would not have had a connected device or a broadband connection	that was sufficient to engage in remote learning? *	ġ.

To demonstrate "Need", provide the number of connected devices, broadband connections, and combination of device/broadband connections for each scenario. Do not duplicate counts. Enter zeros if none, you can't leave the fields blank. 31

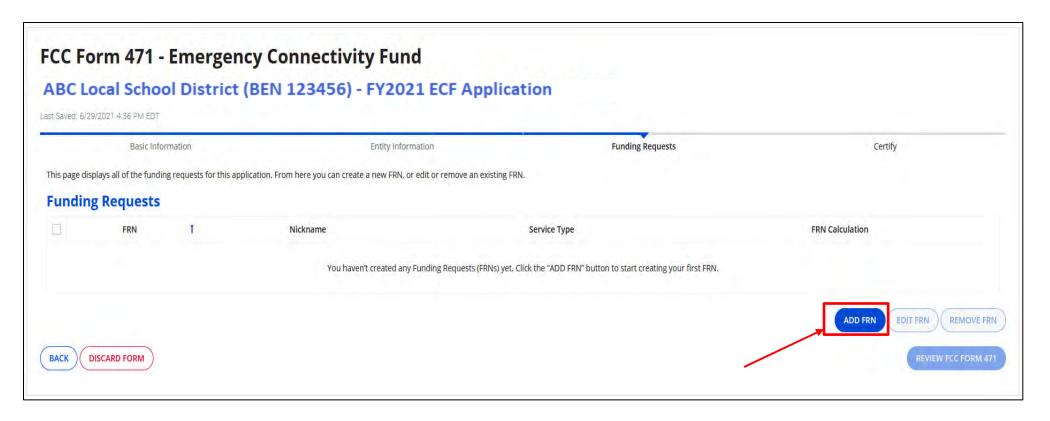
### **Demonstrating Need**

Even after receiving the funding that you are	requesting from the Emergency Connectivity Fur	nd Program, how many students in your school or school district will lack	access to:	
A connected device that is sufficient to enga	ge in remote learning *			230
• A broadband connection that is sufficient to	engage in remote learning *			0
Both a connected device and a broadband of	connection that is sufficient to engage in remote learn	ning*		0
Please describe the steps you have taken to upload them here.*	collect the data responsive to these questions and	d the timing of any data collections or needs assessments you conducted	that inform your answers to these questions. If you have	relevant documents, please
students qualifying for assistance outside of	or NSLP at our high schoo NSLP students at the hig	Based on that survey we provided 1 of who lacked sufficient access. While the school, that was the maximum the mand from families in the district, we	e there were other students to district could afford at the ti	hat needed me. Based
	Document		Uploaded On	
		No items available		
O Upload Document	_			
BACK DISCARD FORM				SAVE & CONTINUE

Provide an explanation as to how and when you collected the data to determine need. If you applied in Window 1 and/or 2, explain who will be served by Window 3 requests

If you have documentation to support the need, click on "Upload Document", but it's not required. Be sure to redact any personally identifiable information!!!

# **Adding a Funding Request**

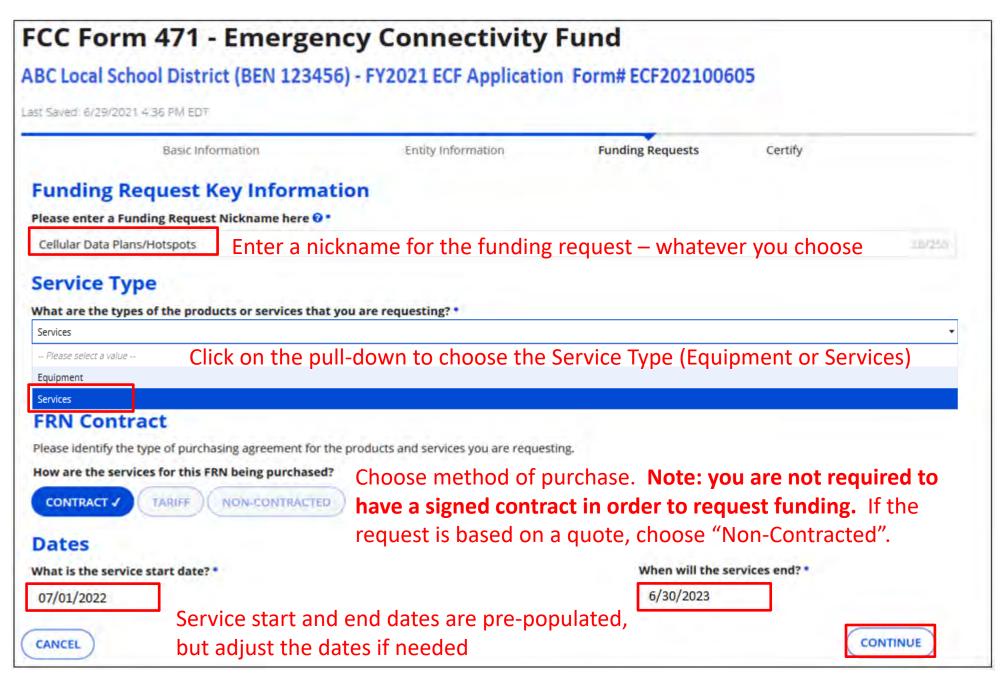


To create a funding request, click on "Add FRN"

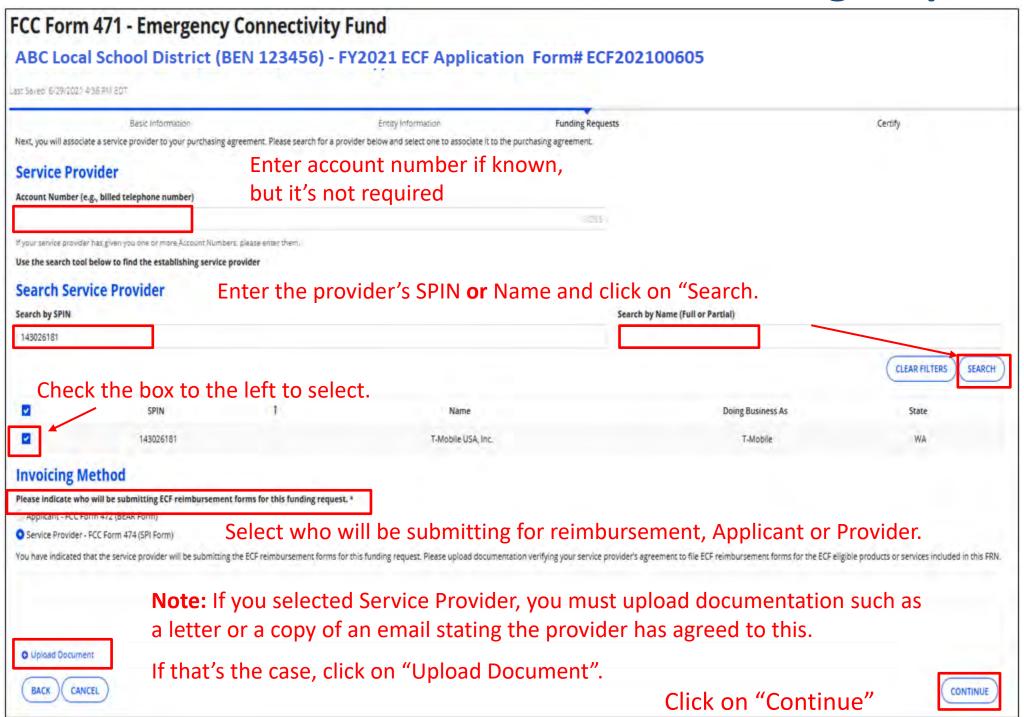
If you are requesting both broadband service and equipment, even if from the same provider, you will need to create separate funding requests.

**Heads-Up**: Because ECF does not require a Service Provider to have a SPIN (Identification Number), you can search for a company by name, and then manually enter their information. We'll see that on the Equipment request.

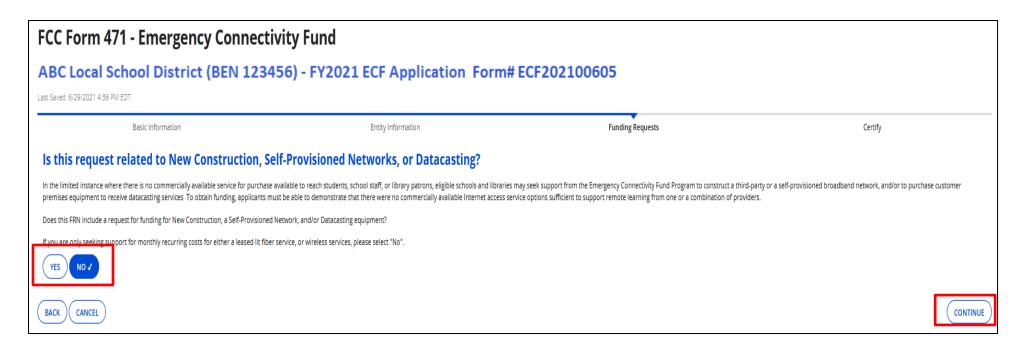
# **Adding a Services Funding Request**



## **Service Funding Request**



### **Service Funding Request**



Indicate if this request is for a broadband buildout because a commercial service is not available.

If you are only seeking the monthly recurring cost for a leased service such as fiber, DSL, or cellular data plans, select "No".

Click on "Continue"

#### Is this request related to New Construction, Self-Provisioned Networks, or Datacasting?

In the limited instance where there is no commercially available service for purchase available to reach students, school staff, or library patrons, eligible schools and libraries may seek support from the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program to construct a third-party or a self-provisioned broadband network, and/or to purchase customer premises equipment to receive datacasting services. To obtain funding, applicants must be able to demonstrate that there were no commercially available Internet access service options sufficient to support remote learning from one or a combination of providers.

Does this FRN include a request for funding for New Construction, a Self-Provisioned Network, and/or Datacasting equipment?

If you are only seeking support for monthly recurring costs for either a leased lit fiber service, or wireless services, please select "No".



You have indicated that this FRN includes a request for support for one or more of the following eligible costs:

- **Special construction.** One-time, up-front costs associated with building out a new or self-provisioned network, including a wireless service (e.g., antennas, cell towers, Citizens Band Radio Service (CBRS), television white space (TVWS) base stations), or leased lit fiber (i.e., special construction charges).
- Maintenance and operations. Cost associated with the maintenance and operations for new or self-provisioned network that is being built or that was built and used during the pandemic.
- **Network equipment.** Cost associated with the purchase of Network Equipment needed to make a new or self-provisioned network functional (e.g., modulating electronics and other equipment) for the network that is being built, or that was built and used during the pandemic.
- Datacasting Customer Premises Equipment. Cost associated with the purchase of customer premises equipment necessary to receive datacasting services.

#### Notes:

- If you are seeking support for both the Special Construction, Maintenance and Operations (M&O), and/or Network Equipment as well as support for recurring costs associated with a wireless service or leased lit fiber, then you should create multiple FRNs. In each case, you will select a different answer to the Yes/No question above based the specific services that are included in that FRN.
- If you selected "Yes" above, you should also create separate FRNs for special construction charges, M&O charges, and Network Equipment charges. If charges for M&O and Network Equipment are bundled pursuant to a single contract for those product / services, you may use the Network Equipment / M&O FRN option.

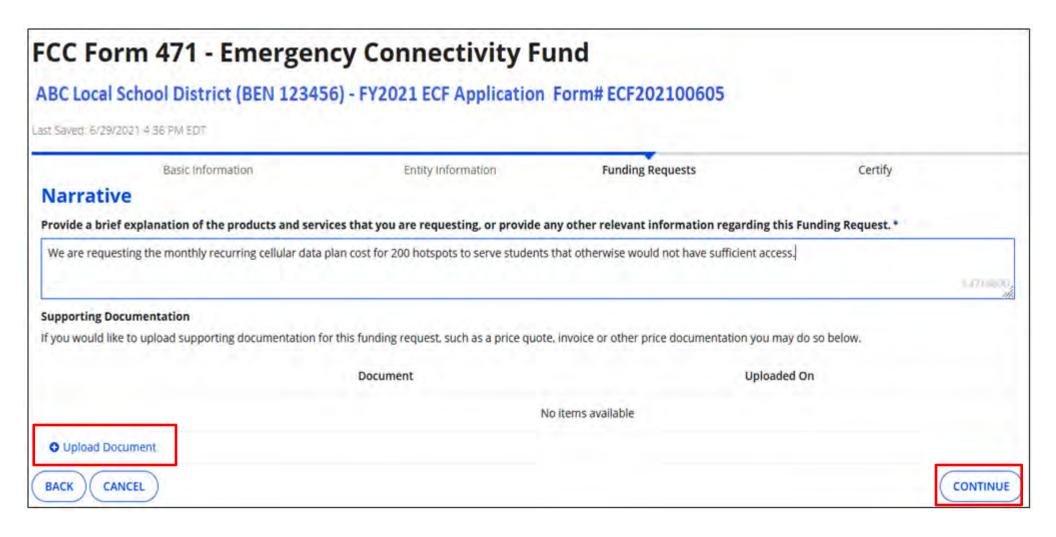


CANCEL

CONTINUE

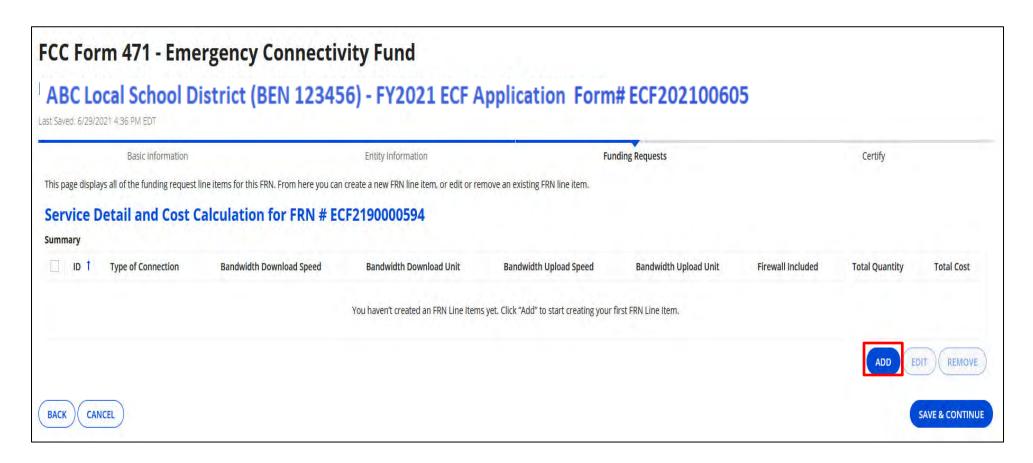
View if you answered "Yes" to a build-out.

Be prepared to explain in the narrative section how it was determined that commercial service was not available.

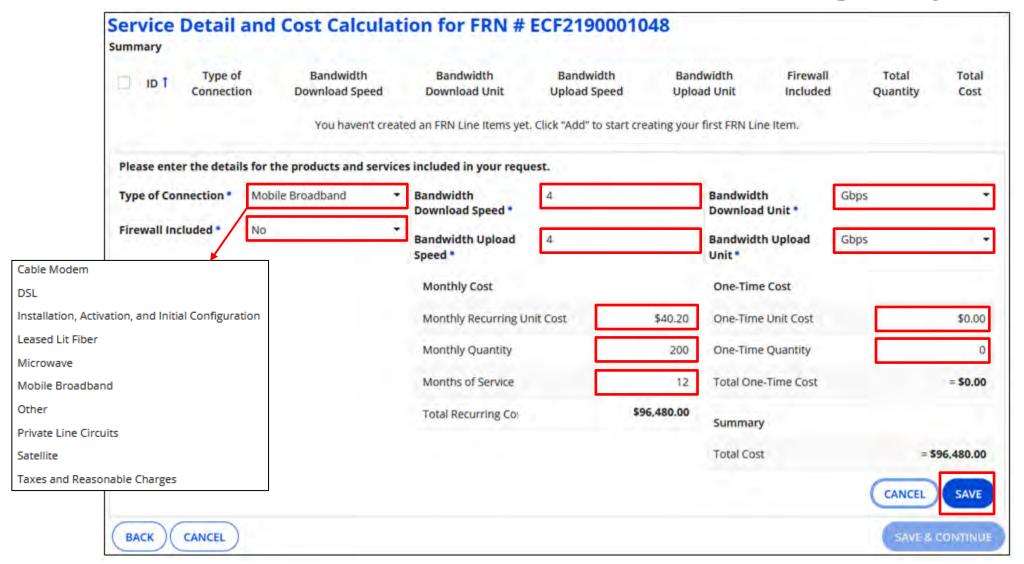


Provide an explanation of the service you're requesting. If you'd like to upload a copy of a quote, current bill, or contract, click on "Upload Document". If not, be prepared to provide the information during review.

When done, click on "Continue"

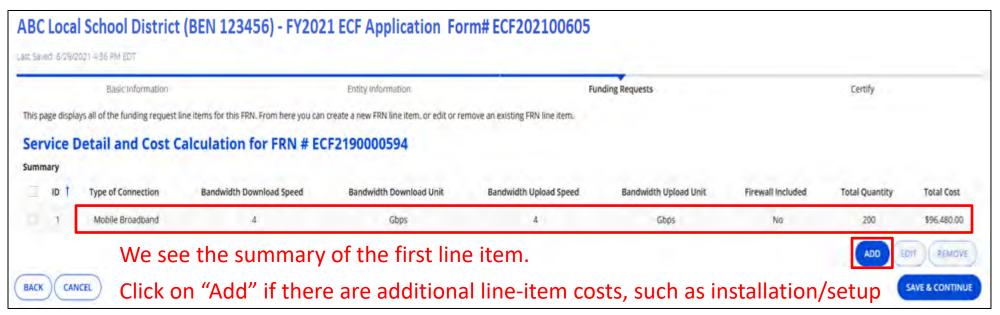


Click on "Add" to start adding the Line Item details (bandwidth speed, cost, quantity, etc.) Unlike the E-Rate Form 471, you will not have to associate Recipients of Service.



- Provide connection type from the pull-down and indicate if firewall service is included.
- Enter the bandwidth upload/download speeds, and if Mbps or Gbps
- Enter monthly recurring costs, quantity, and how many months you are seeking (12 is the max). Enter any one-time costs, if none, enter zero.

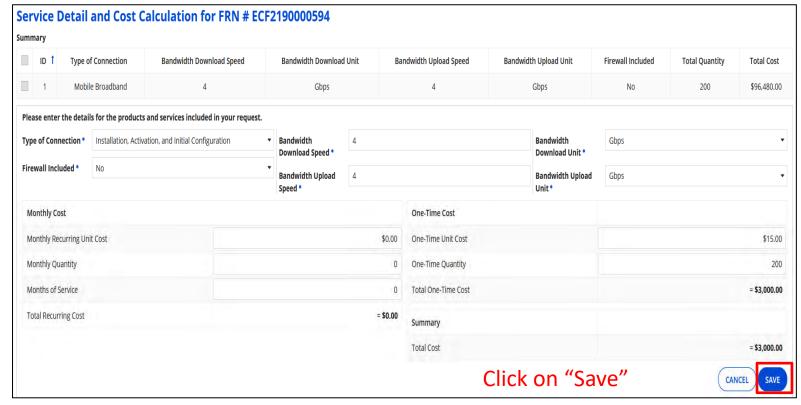
Click on "Save"

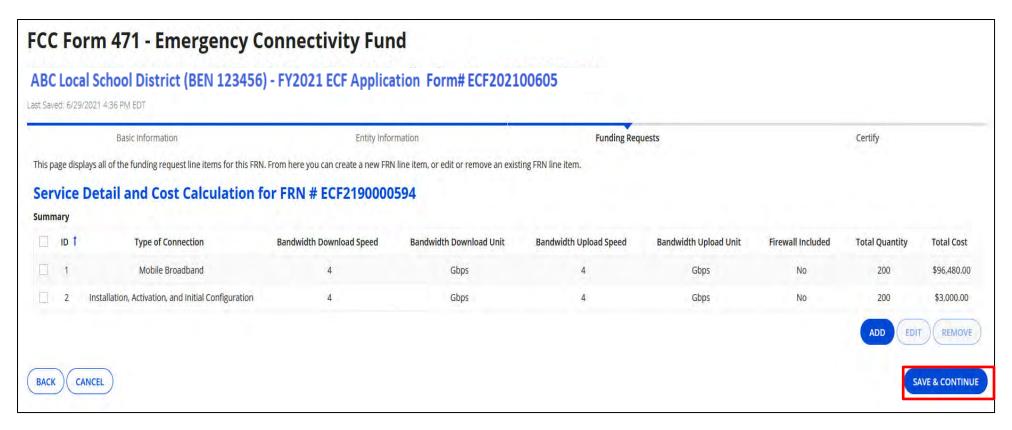


Choose the service Connection Type and answer the firewall and speed questions again.

Provide the cost, monthly or onetime, and quantity.

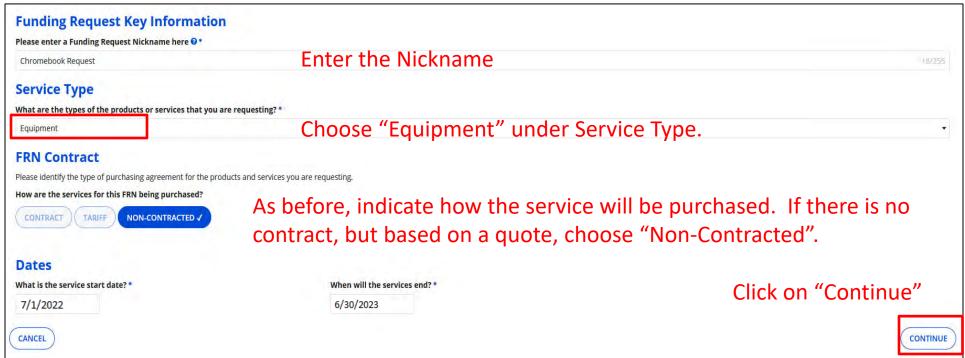
Click on "Save"

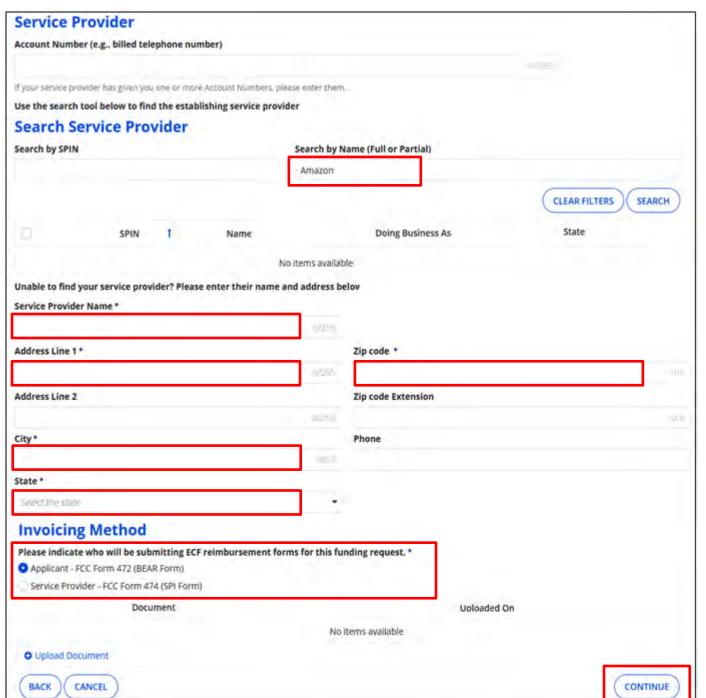




Once completed adding line-items, click on "Save & Continue"







Enter account number if known, but not required.

Search for the Service Provider as before. If they are not in the database, you will need to enter the company information.

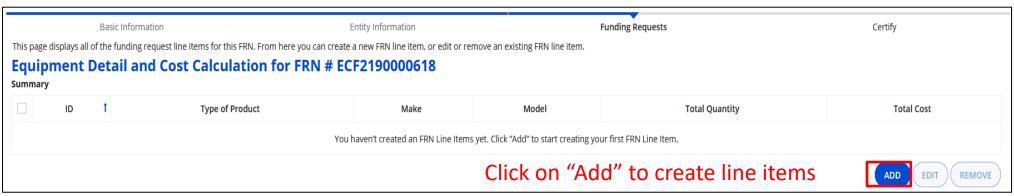
Select who will file for reimbursement. Again, if Provider, upload proof to show they agree.

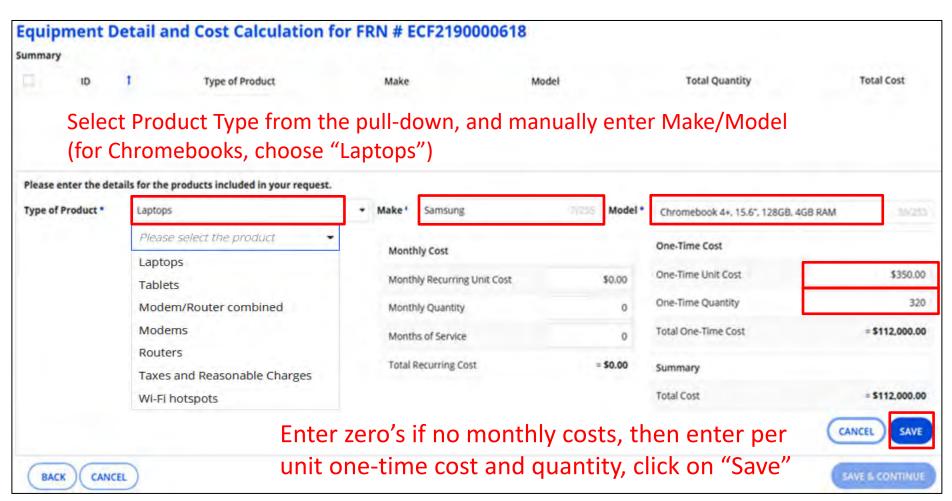
Click on "Continue"

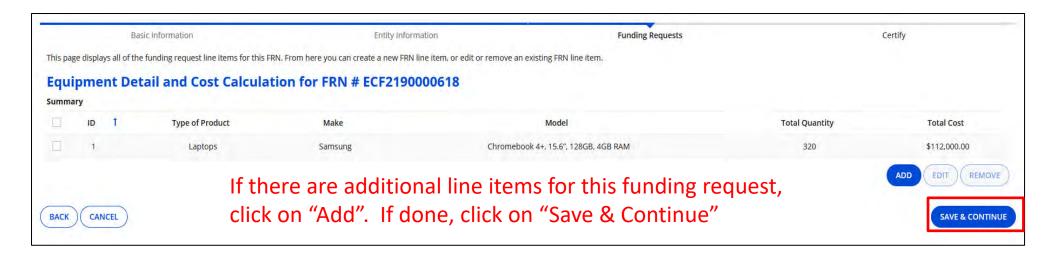


Provide an explanation of the products you're requesting. If you'd like to upload a copy of a quote, click on "Upload Document".

When done, click on "Continue"







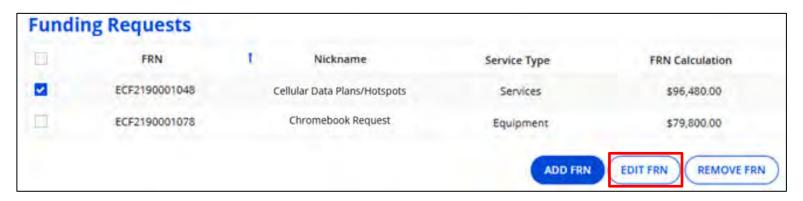
#### **Funding Request Summary**



If you need to edit a funding request, check the box to the left of the row, and then "Edit FRN", or if done adding requests, click on "Review FCC Form 471"

## **Editing Request**

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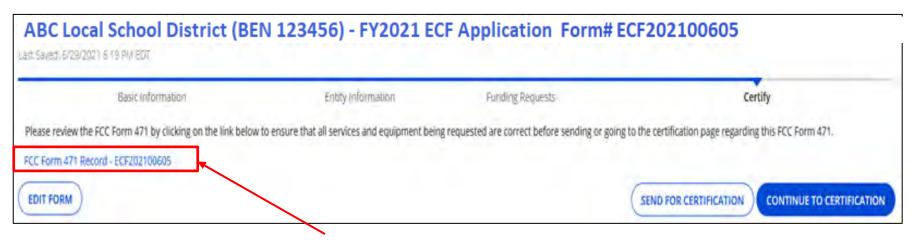


If you need to make a correction, check the box to the left of the FRN, and then "Edit FRN". The system will step you through each form section (Key Info, Service Provider, Narrative, etc.) as you click on "Continue" allowing you to make any necessary changes (except Service Type). This will then take you to the "Service Detail and Cost Calculation" section.



Check the box to the left of the line-item you'd like to change, and then "Edit" to correct service details (connection type/speeds) and cost/quantities. When done, click on "Save". After saving the changes, click on "Save & Continue" to return to the Funding Request table and the option to "Review FCC Form 471"

### **Reviewing ECF Form 471**



Once at the Review page, click on the "Form 471 Record" hyperlink. It may open in a new browser tab. If after reviewing you discover something needs to be changed, click on "Edit Form".

When done reviewing, click on "Continue to Certification". If you click on "Send for Certification", your Form 471 will be sent to the full-right user/s in the portal to complete that step.

#### **Form Review** (currently, there is no option to print the application):



## **Certifying the ECF Form 471**

View after clicking on "Continue to Certification"



The certifications are specific to ECF.
In order to certify, all boxes must be checked.
Read them over carefully!!

When done, click on "Certify"

But let's take a closer look!

st Saved: 7/1/2021 1:47 PM EDT			
Basic Information	Entity Information	Funding Requests	Certify
Fotal funding commitment request amount on this FCC Form 471 \$176,280.00	Total fu	nding request amoui	nt is listed.
Certifications			
I am authorized to submit this application on behalf of the above-na that the data set forth in this application has been examined and is in punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act (47 U.: (31 U.S.C. 98 3729 – 3733).	true, accurate and complete. I ackn	owledge that any false statement on this application or on othe	r documents submitted by this applicant can be
In addition to the foregoing, this applicant is in compliance with the those rules and orders may result in the denial of funding, cancellati Emergency Connectivity Fund Program could result in civil or crimin.	on of funding commitments, and/o	r recoupment of past disbursements. I acknowledge that failur	
By signing this application, I certify that the information contained in set forth in the terms and conditions of the Federal award. I am awa fraud, false statements, false claims or otherwise. (U.S. Code Title 18	re that any false, fictitious, or fraud	ulent information, or the omission of any material fact, may sul	
The school meets the statutory definition of "elementary school" or 'million.	secondary school" as defined in § 5	4.1700 of this subpart, does not operate as for-profit business	es, and does not have endowments exceeding \$50
The school, library, or consortia listed on the FCC Form 471 applicati	on has complied with all applicable	state, local, or Tribal local laws regarding procurement of servi	ces for which support is being sought.
The school or school consortium listed on the FCC Form 471 applica and/or broadband services sufficient to engage in remote learning.	tion is only seeking support for elig	ible equipment and/or services provided to students and school	ol staff who would otherwise lack connected devices
The school, library, or consortia is not seeking Emergency Connective relief funding, targeted state funding, other external sources of target support mechanism.			
The applicant or the relevant student, school staff member, or librar	y patron has received, or the applic	ant has ordered the equipment and services for which funding	is sought.
The equipment and services the school, library, or consortium purch transferred in consideration for money or any other thing of value, e		ency Connectivity Fund support will be used primarily for educa	tional purposes and will not be sold, resold, or
The school, library, or consortium has created and will maintain an e	equipment and service inventory as	required by § 54.1715.	
The school, library, or consortium has complied with all program rul	es and acknowledge that failure to	do so may result in denial of discount funding and/or recovery	of funding.
The applicant recognizes that it may be audited pursuant to its appli representative (including any auditor) appointed by a state educatio entity.			
No kickbacks, as defined in 41 U.S.C. § 8701 and/or 42 U.S.C. § 1320a	a-7b, were paid or received by the a	pplicant to anyone in connection with the Emergency Connecti	vity Fund.
lave you already certified your status of compliance with the Chil	dren's Internet Protection Act (C	PA) on an FCC Form 486 or FCC Form 479 for the relevant fu	nding year? *
Yes			

## **Certifying the ECF Form 471**

#### Certifications

for the data being submitted, I hereby certify that the data set forth in this application has been examined and is true, accurate and complete. I acknowledge that any false statement on this application or on other documents submitted by this applicant can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act (47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503 (b)), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code (18 U.S.C. § 1001), or can lead to liability under the False Claims Act (31 U.S.C. §§ 3729 – 3733).
In addition to the foregoing, this applicant is in compliance with the rules and orders governing the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program, and I acknowledge that failure to be in compliance and remain in compliance with those rules and orders may result in the denial of funding, cancellation of funding commitments, and/or recoupment of past disbursements. I acknowledge that failure to comply with the rules and orders governing the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program could result in civil or criminal prosecution by law enforcement authorities.
By signing this application, I certify that the information contained in this application is true, complete, and accurate, and the projected expenditures, disbursements and cash receipts are for the purposes and objectives set forth in the terms and conditions of the Federal award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent information, or the omission of any material fact, may subject me to criminal, civil or administrative penalties for fraud, false statements, false claims or otherwise. (U.S. Code Title 18, sections 1001, 286-287 and 1341 and Title 31, sections 3729–3730 and 3801–3812).
The school meets the statutory definition of "elementary school" or "secondary school" as defined in § 54.1700 of this subpart, does not operate as for-profit businesses, and does not have endowments exceeding \$50 million.
The school, library, or consortia listed on the FCC Form 471 application has complied with all applicable state, local, or Tribal local laws regarding procurement of services for which support is being sought.
The school or school consortium listed on the FCC Form 471 application is only seeking support for eligible equipment and/or services provided to students and school staff who would otherwise lack connected devices and/or broadband services sufficient to engage in remote learning.
The school, library, or consortia is not seeking Emergency Connectivity Fund support or reimbursement for eligible equipment or services that have been purchased and reimbursed in full with other federal pandemic-relief funding, targeted state funding, other external sources of targeted funding or targeted gifts, or eligible for discounts from the schools and libraries universal service support mechanism or other universal service support mechanism.
The applicant or the relevant student, school staff member, or library patron has received, or the applicant has ordered the equipment and services for which funding is sought.
The equipment and services the school, library, or consortium purchases or will purchase using Emergency Connectivity Fund support will be used primarily for educational purposes and will not be sold, resold, or transferred in consideration for money or any other thing of value, except as allowed by 83 54.1713.
The school, library, or consortium has created and will maintain an equipment and service inventory as required by § 54.1715.
The school, library, or consortium has complied with all program rules and acknowledge that failure to do so may result in denial of discount funding and/or recovery of funding.
The applicant recognizes that it may be audited pursuant to its application, that it will retain for ten years any and all records related to its application, and that, if audited, it shall produce such records at the request of any representative (including any auditor) appointed by a state education department, the Administrator, the Commission and its Office of Inspector General, or any local, state, or federal agency with jurisdiction over the entity.
No kickbacks, as defined in 41 U.S.C. § 8701 and/or 42 U.S.C. § 1320a-7b, were paid or received by the applicant to anyone in connection with the Emergency Connectivity Fund.
 average already sortified your status of somplians with the Children's Internet Dretestion Ast (CIDA) on an ECC Form 490 or ECC Form 470 for the volument funding

Have you already certified your status of compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) on an FCC Form 486 or FCC Form 479 for the relevant funding year? \*

○ Yes ○ No

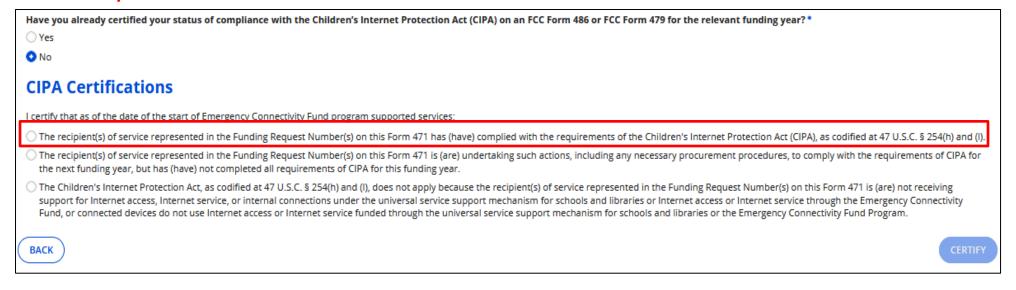
BACK

- If you've file a FY2021 Form 486 to certify your CIPA compliance, select "Yes".
- If not, select "No" and you will be able to certify on the ECF Form 471.
- When done, click on "Certify"
- You will not file a Form 486 as part of the ECF application process.



### **Certifying the ECF Form 471**

#### View if you selected "No".



#### To certify you are CIPA compliant, select the first option.

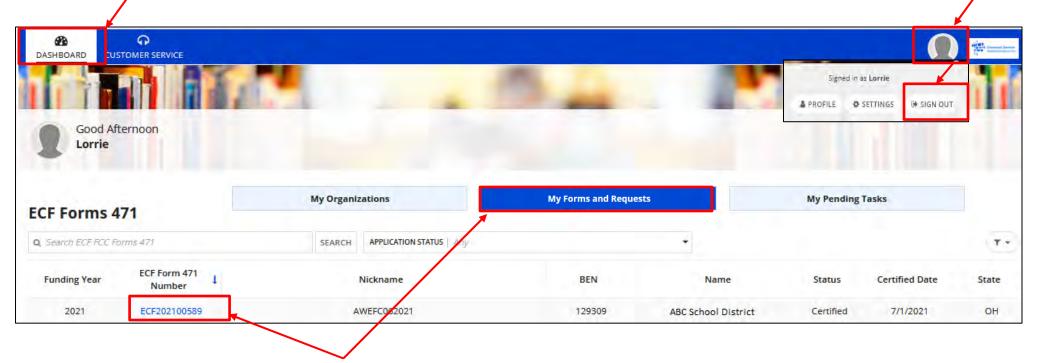
The second option indicates you're working at becoming CIPA compliant.

The third option indicates CIPA doesn't apply because the entity is not receiving ECF or E-Rate discounted internet access or internet services, or E-Rate discounted internal connections—or network equipment for internet access, internet service, or internal connections.

### **ECF Portal Housekeeping**

If at any time you want to return to your ECF "Landing Page", click on "Dashboard"

To log out, click on the silhouette, and then "Sign Out"



To see your Form 471 once certified, click on "My Forms and Requests" and then on the "ECF Form 471 Number" hyperlink.

## **Modifying an Application**

After clicking on the application number, click on "Related Actions", and then "Contact Reviewer"

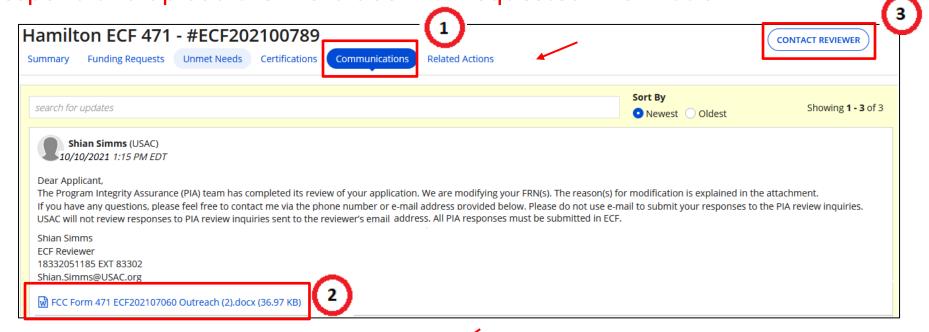




Explain any changes or corrections in the text box provided. If you have supporting documentation, click on "Upload" and then "Update".

#### **Application Review**

After clicking on the application number, click on "Communications" for details. There may be a Word doc with review details. Click on "Contact Reviewer" to respond and upload the Word doc with requested information





Provide a brief explanation and upload the Word doc with the requested information by clicking on "Upload" and then "Update".

### **After Filing Q&A**

# Q: Can applicants change their service providers after they file their applications?

A: Yes, applicants may change service providers.

# Q: Can applicants change the make or model of their equipment after they file their applications?

A: Yes, applicants may make service and equipment substitutions after getting a funding commitment.

# Q: Will USAC wait to approve applications until the application filing window closes?

A: Yes. In order to assess the demand for funds, USAC will wait until an application filing window is closed before issuing funding commitment decision notifications.

# Questions



# For E-Rate Support and Information Contact



#### **Lorrie Germann:**

<u>lgermann@ohiocsc.org</u> **or** <u>lorrie.germann@education.ohio.gov</u>

#### www.ohio-k12.help/erate

Office: 740-223-2420

Cell: 740-253-1153