

E-Rate Open Data Course 1: Open Data Overview August 27, 2024

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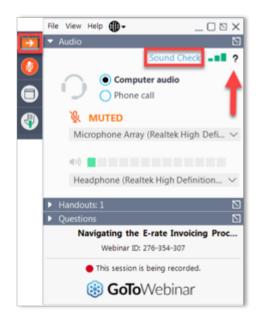
Housekeeping: General

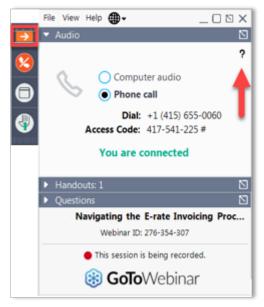
- Audio is available through your computer's speakers.
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- Use the Questions box to ask questions at any time.
- You can download the slide deck from the Handouts section of the webinar panel.



Housekeeping: Troubleshooting

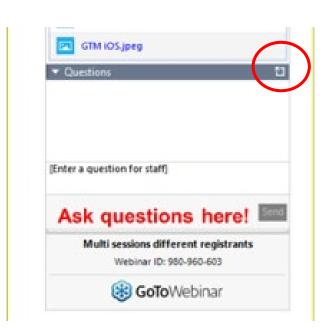
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Housekeeping: Q&A

- There will be a live Q&A session focused on today's topics.
- Tips for submitting questions:
 - Use the Questions box in your webinar control panel anytime during the presentation.
 - Write in full sentences.
 - Ask one question at a time.
 - Ask questions related to today's webinar content.
- To view answers:
 - Click the box with the arrow icon in the top right corner of the Questions box to expand it and reveal all written answers.



E-Rate Customer Service Center (CSC)



Call us at (888) 203-8100

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET



Create a customer service case

- 1. Log in to the **E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC)**
- 2. Select the **Contact Us** link from the upper right menu on the landing page.

Meet Our Team



Lorenzo Sanchez

Lead Data Analyst | E-Rate



Derrick Harrison

Program Analyst | E-Rate



Tom Nesbit

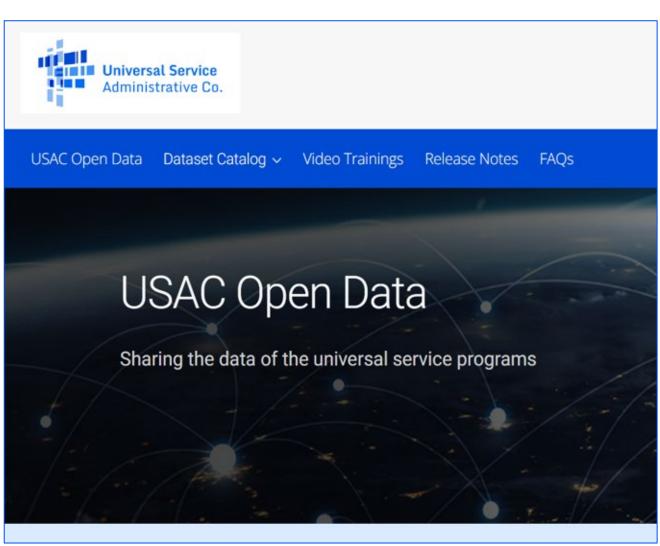
Director | E-Rate

Agenda

- Open Data Introduction
- Learn to Navigate the Open Data Platform
- Explain the Various Open Data Sets and Tools Available
- Search for Data Sets and Tools
- Walk Through a Tool Use Case
- Review Additional Open Data Resources

What is Open Data?

- USAC's Open Data is a web portal where you can access:
 - Raw data submitted by Universal Service Program participants
 - Self-service tools connected to USAC data
- As part of USAC's Open Data initiative, we make this data open and accessible to the public.
 - Anyone is free to use, re-use, and redistribute the data in our datasets.



What Is It For?

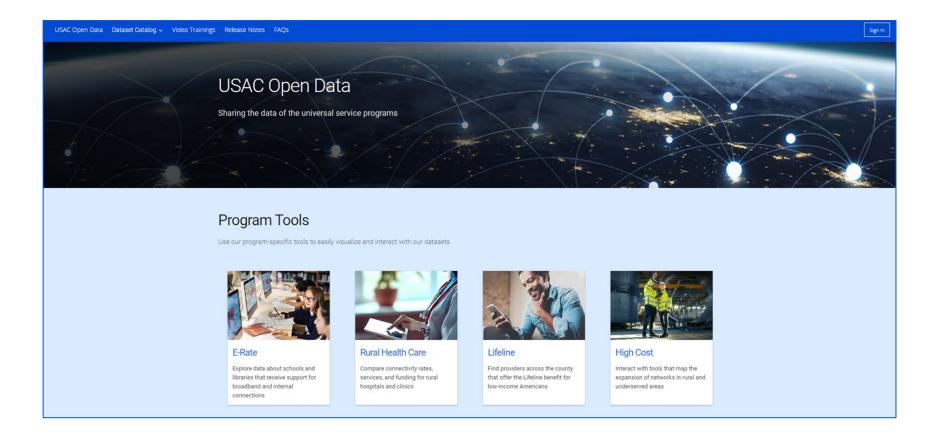
- Make Universal Service Fund program data available to the public in an equitable and reliable way.
- Provide transparency, visibility, and self-service in a highly secure platform.
- Help stakeholders answer Universal Service Fund program questions using the available data.

How Does Open Data Accomplish This for E-Rate?

- Provides E-Rate data related to:
 - FCC Form 470 (Competitive Bidding)
 - FCC Form 471 (Request for discount on services and funding commitments)
 - FCC Forms 472/474 (Reimbursements)
 - Category 2 FY2021+ budgets
 - E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC) related data
- Allows searching large datasets of aggregated E-Rate information using a variety of filters
- Allows creating customized reports and visualizations
- Provides data export options in multiple formats, including Excel

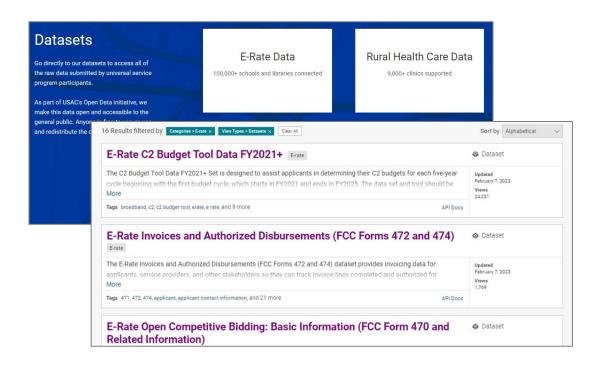
How to Access Open Data

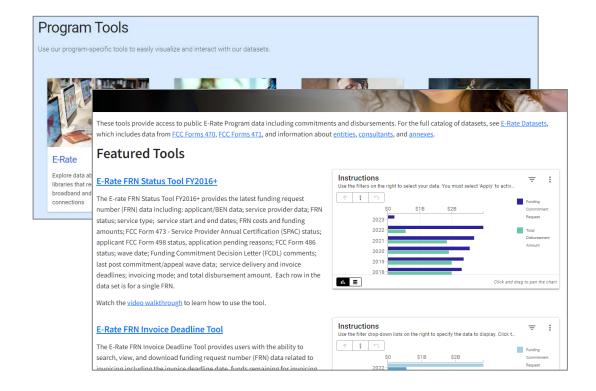
Access USAC Open Data Website: https://opendata.usac.org/



Datasets and Tools

Open Data <u>Datasets</u> vs. <u>Tools</u>: How do they differ?





Key E-Rate Open Data tools

Datasets	Tools
E-Rate Supplemental Entity Information	E-Rate Entity Search Tool
E-Rate FCC Form 470 Tool Data	• E-Rate FCC Form 470 Download Tool
E-Rate Request for Discount on Services: FRN Status (FCC Form 471 and Related Information)	 <u>E-Rate FRN Status Tool FY2016+</u> <u>E-Rate FRN Invoice Deadline Tool</u>
E-Rate Request for Discount on Services (all datasets)	• E-Rate FCC Form 471 Download Tool
E-Rate Invoices and Authorized Disbursements (FCC Forms 472 and 474)	• <u>E-Rate Invoice Disbursements Data Lookup</u> <u>Tool</u>
E-Rate C2 Budget Tool Data FY2021+	• E-Rate C2 Budget Tool FY2021+

E-Rate Entity Search Tool

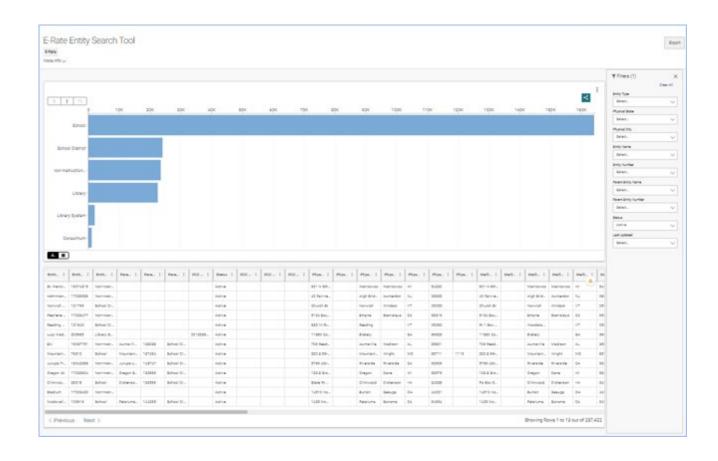
Business Purpose:

 How can I see if my school is signed up for the E-Rate program?

Provides entity information about schools, school districts, library systems, libraries, consortia, and non-instructional facilities (NIFs) including:

- Entity name, number, type, and parent entity
- Physical and mailing location

Watch the <u>video walkthrough</u> to learn more about this tool.



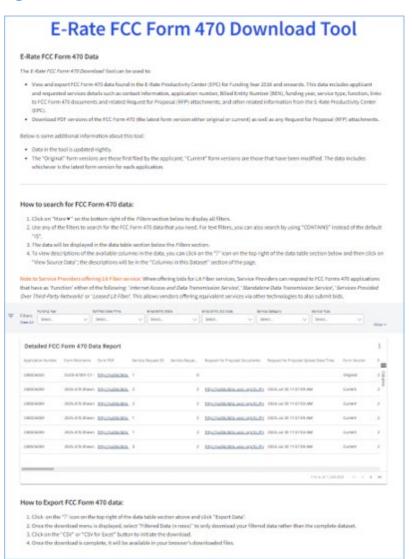
E-Rate FCC Form 470 Download Tool

Business Purpose:

 How can I as a Service Provider search for what services are being requested for a FY 2025?

Provides applicant and requested services details including:

- Contact information
- Application number
- Billed Entity Number (BEN)
- Funding year
- Service type
- Function
- Links to FCC Form 470 documents and related Request for Proposal (RFP) attachments
- Other related information from the E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC).



E-Rate FRN Status Tool 2016+

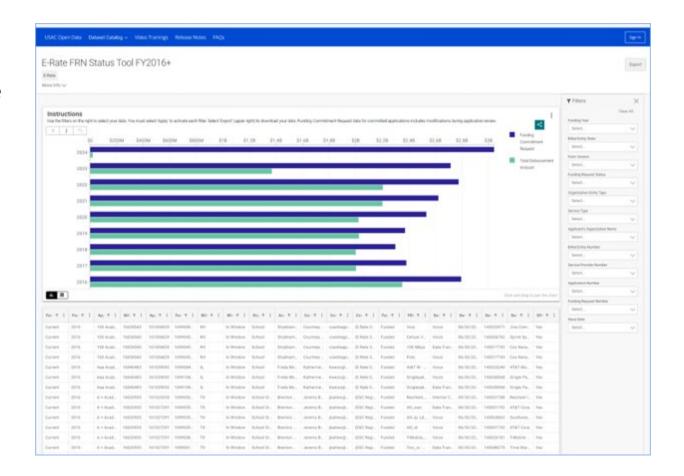
Business Purpose:

- How can a user check on the status of their FRNs for their school district?
- How can a user check to see if any of their FRNs have been disbursed for a FY?

Provides funding request data including:

- Funding status
- Funding wave data
- Disbursements
- Service Provider Annual Certification (SPAC) Status
- Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL)

View the <u>training video</u> to learn more about this tool.



E-Rate Invoice Deadline Tool

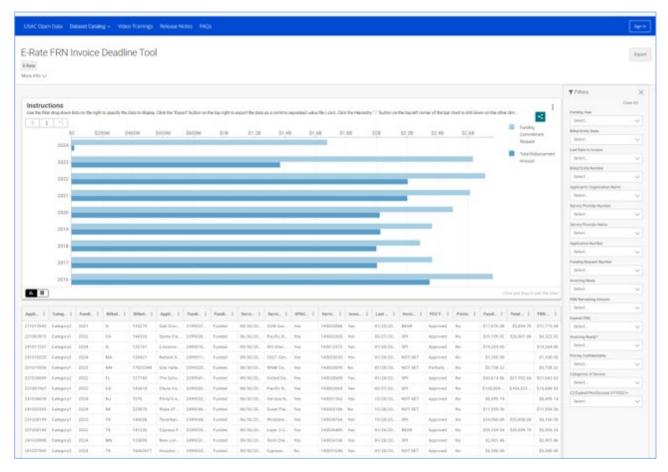
Business Purpose:

- How can I check to see the last day to invoice for an FRN and decide if I want to file a 120-day invoice deadline extension?
- How much funding do I have remaining for an FRN and is my FRN ready for Invoicing? (FCC Form 473 status, FCC Form 486 status)
- Can I check to see expired C2 funds available to return to my C2 budget via FCC Form 500?

Provides the ability to search, view, and download invoice related data including:

- Invoice deadline dates
- Funds remaining for invoicing
- Invoicing mode (Billed Entity Applicant Reimbursement (BEAR) vs. Service Provider Invoice (SPI)).

View the <u>training video</u> to learn more about this tool.



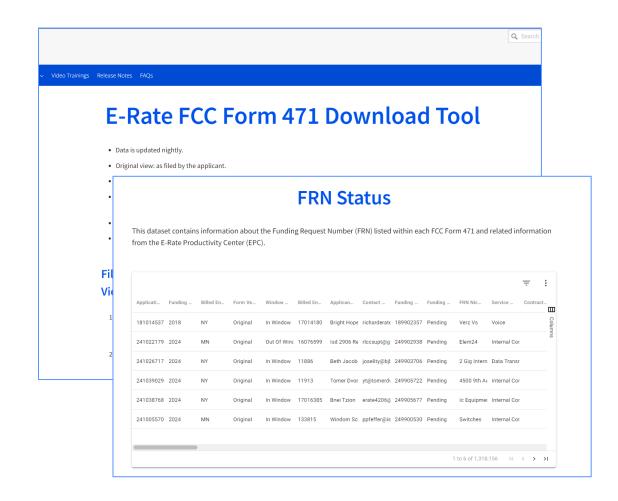
E-Rate FCC Form 471 Download Tool

Business Purpose:

- How can I obtain a PDF copy for the FCC Form 471 for applicants based in a specific state for Funding Year (FY) 2024?
- How can I obtain a list of the FRNs and what is pending approval of services for a given School District for Funding Year (FY) 2024?

Provides the ability to view and download data from all FCC Form 471 datasets for FY2016 and forward from a single screen, including:

- A PDF copy of the original FCC Form 471 application in the 471
 Basic Information dataset.
- Current program deadlines (e.g., Service Start Date, Invoicing Deadline Date) for all Funding Request Numbers (FRNs) in the FRN Status dataset.
- All FCC Form 471 data for the original FRN and any subsequent changes made post-commitment (e.g., FCC Forms 500, Service Substitutions, SPIN Changes, or Appeals).



View the <u>training video</u> to learn more about this tool.

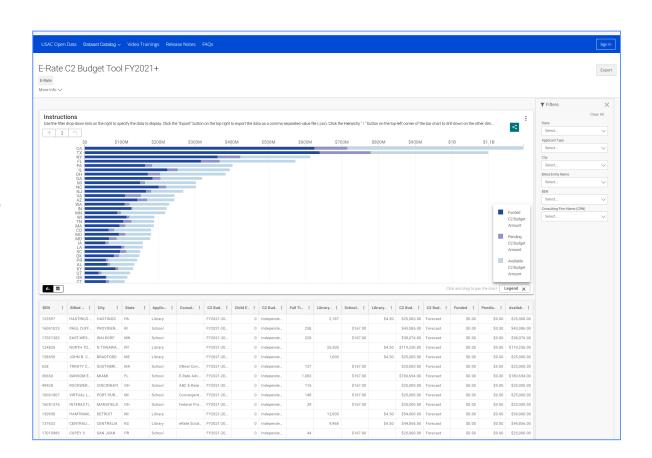
E-Rate Category Two (C2) Budget Tool FY2021+

Business Purpose:

- How can an applicant check their remaining Category Two Budget for this current cycle (2021-2025)?
- How can an applicant check if already committed C2 funding was not invoiced before the invoicing deadline, which could be canceled and made available for FY2025 if the applicant submits an FCC Form 500?

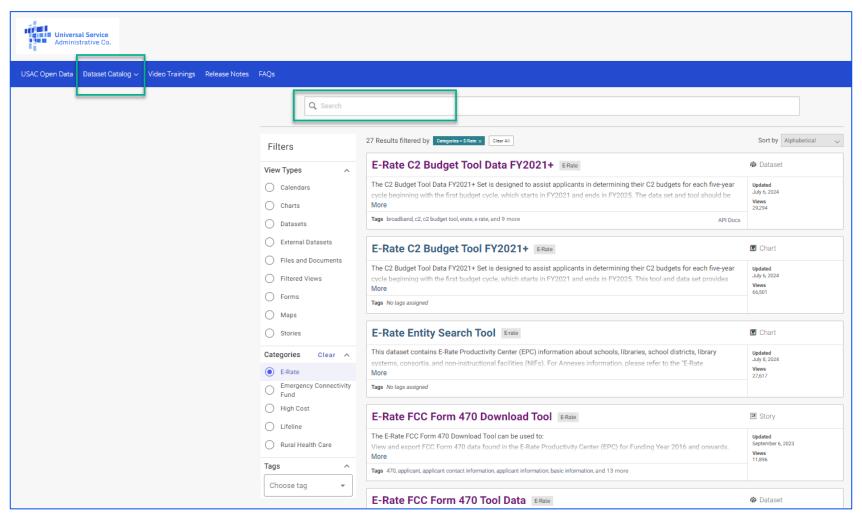
Provides information about applicants' Category Two (C2) budgets based on the most recent entity profile and commitment data available.

•FY2021-2025 Category Two (C2) Budget Management Guide



Search Open Data for E-Rate Datasets and Tools

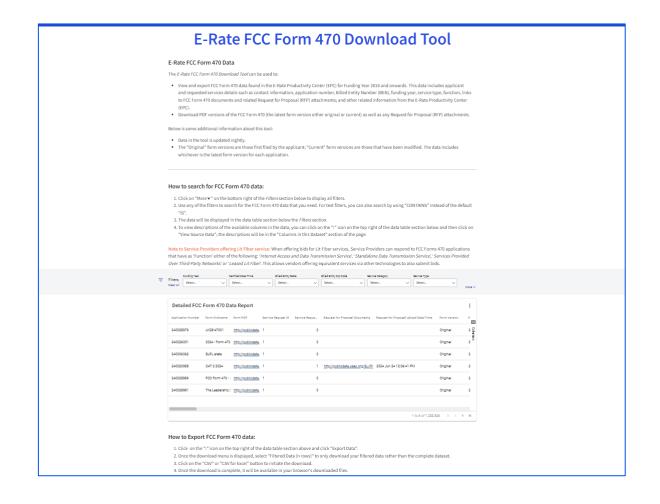
Dataset Catalog: https://opendata.usac.org/browse?category=E-Rate



Demo: E-Rate FCC Form 470 Download Tool

Tool Use Case #1: <u>E-Rate FCC Form</u>
 470 Download Tool

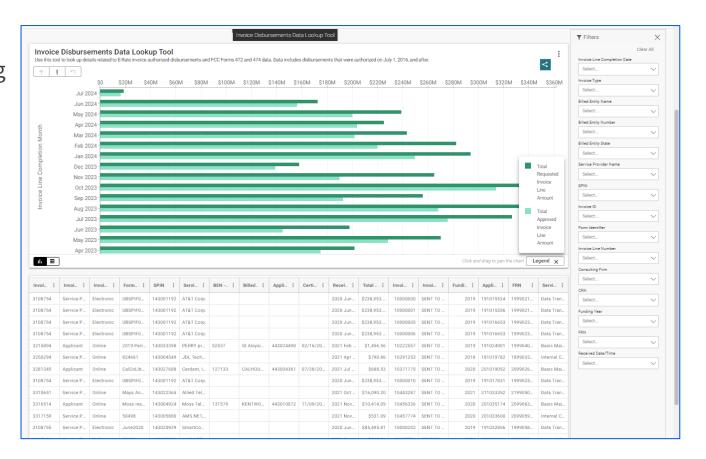
 How can I as a Service Provider search for what services are being requested?



Demo: E-Rate Invoice Disbursements Data Lookup Tool

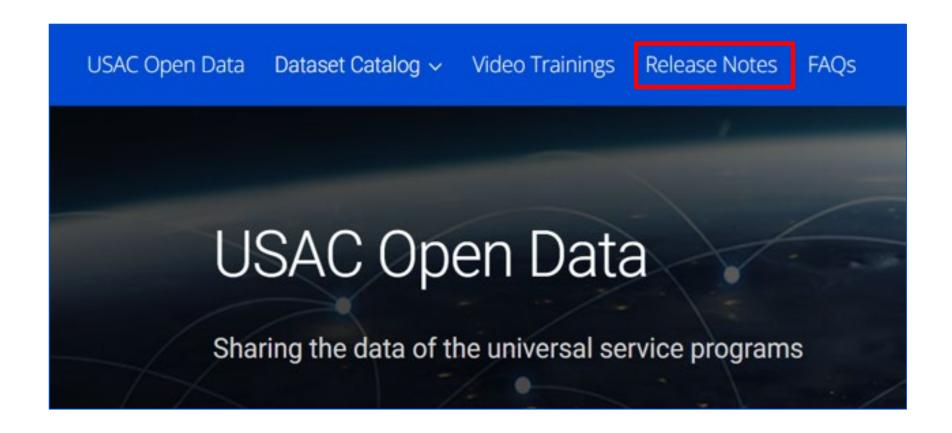
The E-Rate Invoices and Authorized Disbursements (FCC Forms 472 and 474) dataset provides invoicing data for applicants, service providers, and other stakeholders so they can track invoice lines completed and authorized for disbursement.

- Tool Use Case #2: <u>E-Rate Invoice Disbursements Data Lookup</u> <u>Tool</u>
- How can this tool be used to receive payment information (and tailored for subsets of information, such as reduced, or \$0/unpaid lines) and view the reasons for these reductions?



Open Data Resources

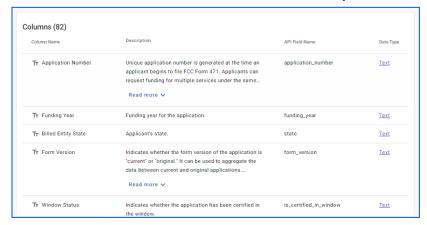
You can find a list of all major Open Data updates (new assets, enhancements, and resolved issues) in our <u>Release Notes (2024)</u> page.



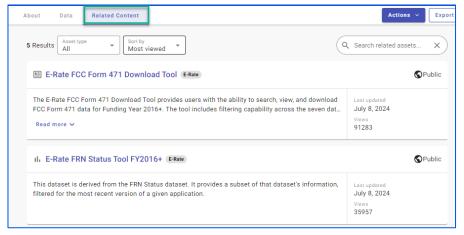
Dataset resources

Each dataset includes the following resources:

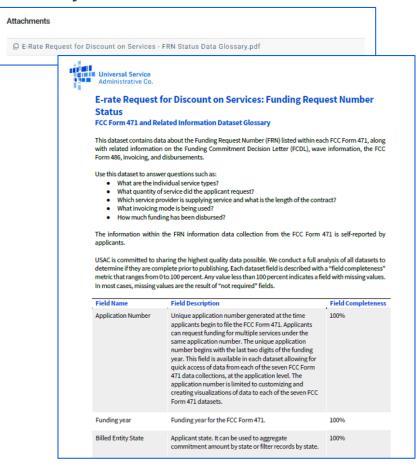
List of columns with short descriptions



Connected Content (if available)



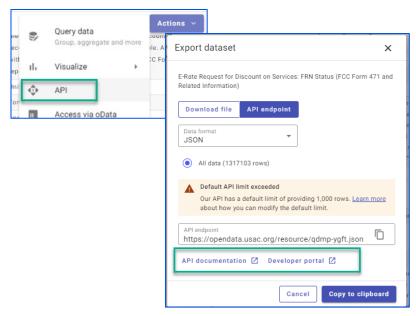
Glossary with definitions



Dataset resources (contd.)

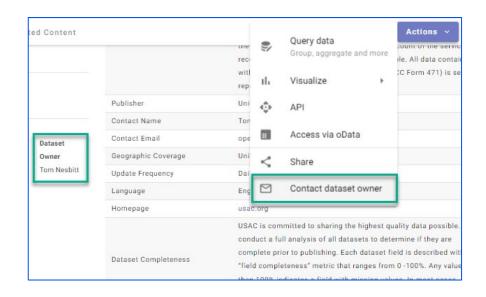
Each dataset includes the following additional resources:

- Developer and Application Programming Interface (API) documentation reference links*
- What is an API?
 - Who can benefit from it?



^{*}For developer/API questions, contact the Socrata support team at: https://support.socrata.com/hc/en-us/requests/new

 A "Contact Dataset Owner" option to submit questions related to Open Data** to USAC



^{**}For E-Rate program or application specific questions, contact the program team directly.

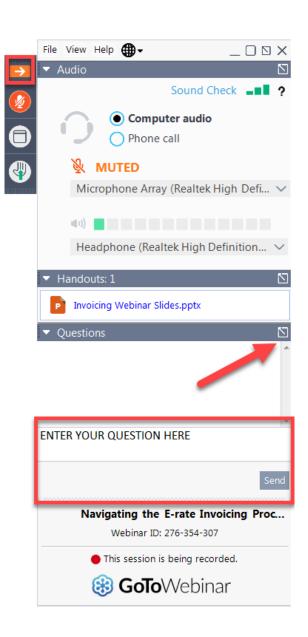
See https://www.usac.org/e-rate/contact-us/

Open Data Webinar: Part 2

- Uses for custom reports
- Creating an Open Data account
- Demo: Creating a custom report
- Uses for visualizations
- Demo: Creating a simple chart visualization
- Sharing content with other users

Live Q&A

- Submit your questions about today's topics:
 - Open Data Introduction
 - Learn to navigate the open data platform
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 - Search for tools
 - Walk through a tool use case
 - Review additional resources



Q&A Tips

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Questions?

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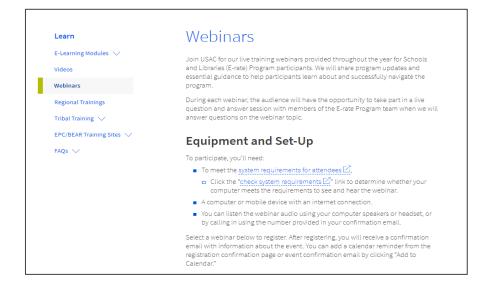
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Create a customer service case

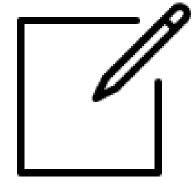
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Upcoming Webinars

- Our next webinar is on August 29, 2024
- Open Data Couse 2: Creating Reports and Visualizations
 - Recommended for applicants and service providers
 - Suitable for all E-Rate experience levels
- Please visit the E-Rate <u>Webinars</u> page for additional information.



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- A survey will appear on your screen at the end of the webinar.
- If you are not able to complete the survey today, a link to it will be emailed to you within two business days.
- We appreciate your feedback!

Thank You!



