



E-Rate Eligible Services Funding Year (FY) 2025 Question and Answer Session

January 16, 2025

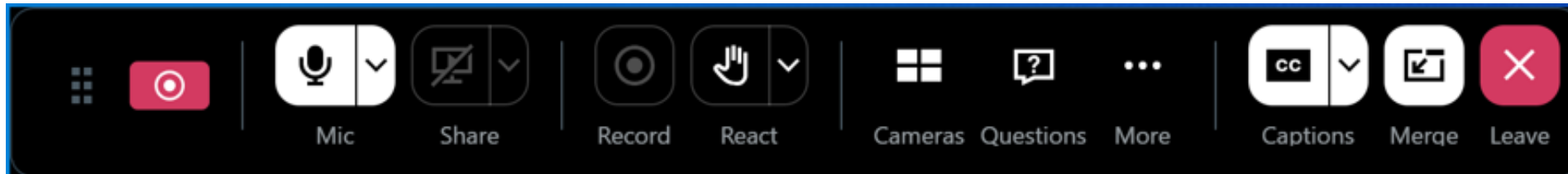
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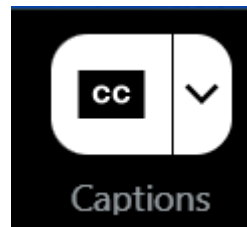
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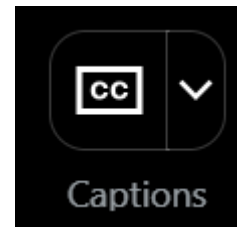
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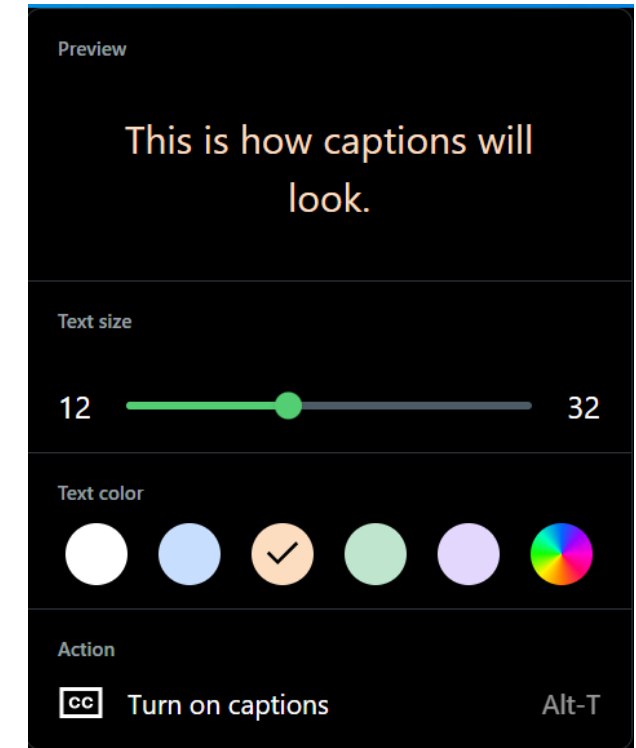
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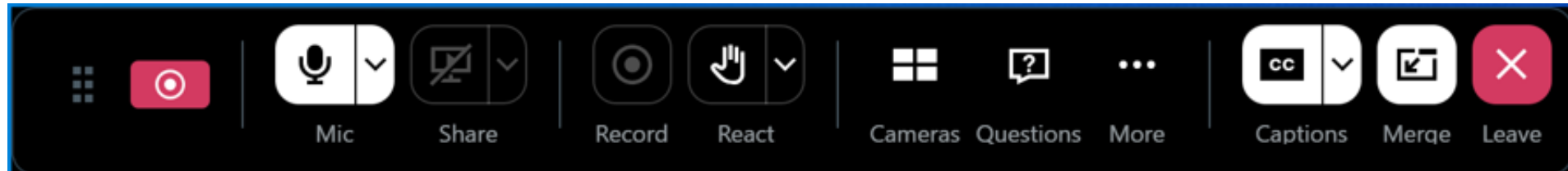
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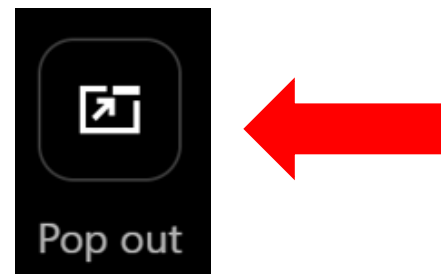
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 **Materials**


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Questions ×



No questions yet

Questions you send and answers from the staff will appear here

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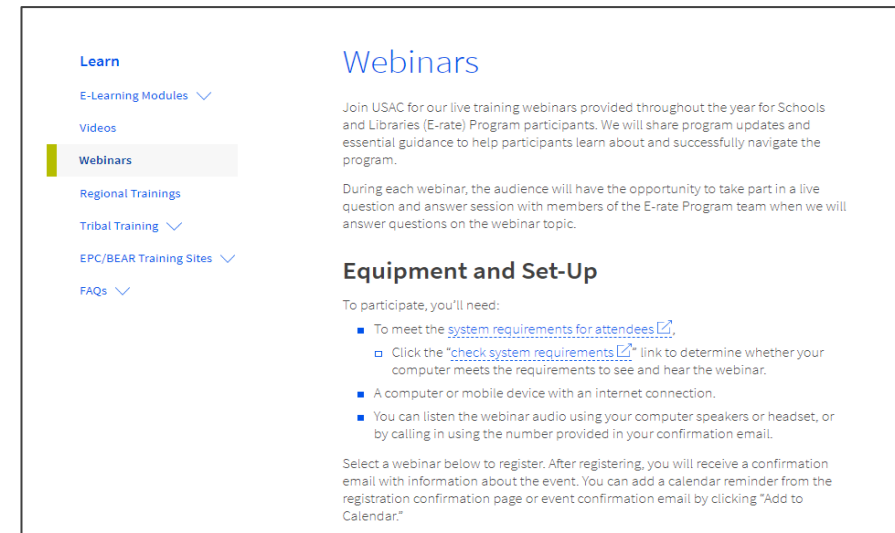
Upcoming Webinars

**Our next webinar is on:
January 23 at 2 p.m. E.T.**

E-Rate Competitive Bidding Process & FCC Form 470 Question and Answer (Q&A) Session

Recommended for: Applicants and
service providers

E-Rate Experience Level: All



The screenshot shows a webpage with a navigation menu on the left and a main content area on the right. The navigation menu includes: Learn, E-Learning Modules (with a dropdown arrow), Videos, Webinars (highlighted with a yellow bar), Regional Trainings, Tribal Training (with a dropdown arrow), EPC/BEAR Training Sites (with a dropdown arrow), and FAQs (with a dropdown arrow). The main content area is titled "Webinars" and contains the following text: "Join USAC for our live training webinars provided throughout the year for Schools and Libraries (E-rate) Program participants. We will share program updates and essential guidance to help participants learn about and successfully navigate the program." Below this is a paragraph: "During each webinar, the audience will have the opportunity to take part in a live question and answer session with members of the E-rate Program team when we will answer questions on the webinar topic." A section titled "Equipment and Set-Up" follows, with the text "To participate, you'll need:" and a list of requirements: "To meet the [system requirements for attendees](#), Click the ['check system requirements'](#) link to determine whether your computer meets the requirements to see and hear the webinar." "A computer or mobile device with an internet connection." "You can listen the webinar audio using your computer speakers or headset, or by calling in using the number provided in your confirmation email." At the bottom, it says: "Select a webinar below to register. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with information about the event. You can add a calendar reminder from the registration confirmation page or event confirmation email by clicking 'Add to Calendar'."

Go to the E-Rate [Webinars](#) page for additional information.

MEET THE TEAM



Bernie Manns

Sr. Director | E-Rate program



Derrick Harrison

Program Analyst | E-Rate Program

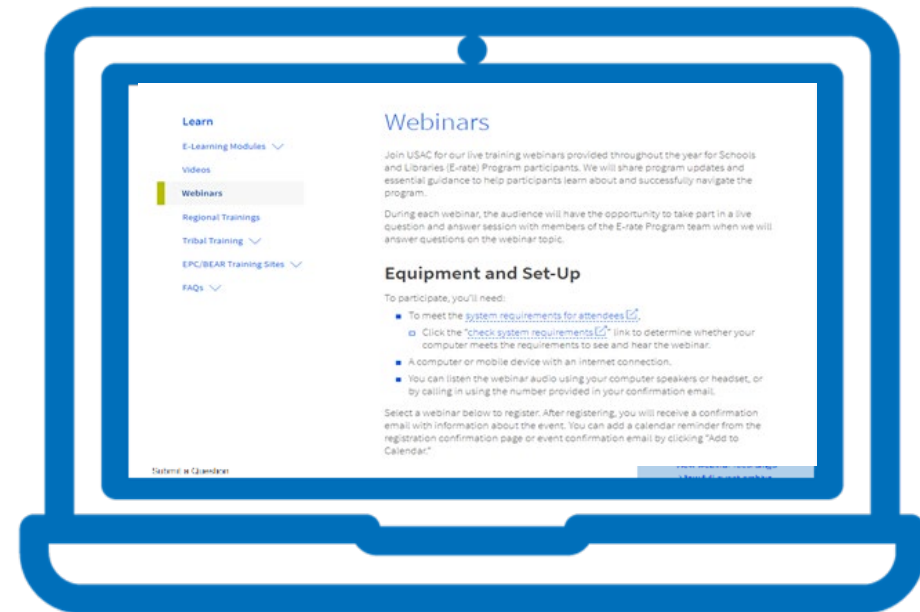
AGENDA

- Question and Answer Overview
- The Eligible Services List
- What's New for Funding Year 2025
- Review: Types of Eligible Services and Equipment
- Question & Answer Session

Question & Answer Session: Overview and Purpose

Question & Answer Webinar and Training Series

- Provide targeted program information.
- Assist program participants with timely and topic relevant questions.
- Equip program participants with knowledge about E-Rate resources.
- Recommended for: Applicants and Service Providers
- E-Rate experience level: All



Question & Answer Webinars

- Participants should read the assigned materials and watch assigned videos in advanced of the webinar and come prepared to ask questions during the Q&A.
- USAC team members will provide a high-level overview of the materials.
- Questions related to the topics will be given priority.

Question & Answer: Prerequisites

- [E-Rate Eligible Services 101 Webinar and Slides](#)
- [FY 2025 Eligible Service List](#)
- [Wi-Fi Hotspots Webinar and Slides](#)



The Eligible Services List (ESL)

- Each year, before the opening of the [FCC Form 471 filing](#) window, the FCC releases an eligible services list containing information on the equipment and services that are E-Rate eligible for the upcoming funding year.



Eligible Services List (ESL)

- The ESL also provides helpful information such as **eligibility conditions** for each category of service for the funding year.
- Applicants can only receive funding for equipment and services that are eligible and being primarily used **for educational purposes**.



Eligible Services List (ESL)

- The FCC released the FY 2025 Eligible Services List on October 25, 2024.
- The FCC Order containing the Funding Year 2025 Eligible Services List is posted on E-Rate's [Eligible Services List](#) webpage.
- **The ESL Order has five sections, with the actual Eligible Service List posted last.**
 - Introduction – A preface to the contents of the Order.
 - Background – Discusses the FCC's seeking of comments, and related actions, prior to issuing the Order.
 - Discussion – Detailed discussion of scope of modifications in the Eligible Services List.
 - Appendix A– List of Commenters
 - Appendix B – FY 2025 Eligible Service List.

What's New: Funding Year (FY) 2025

Eligible Services List (ESL) FY2025: What's New

- Revised the description of “wireless” service to read “Wireless (e.g., fixed wireless; microwave; [mobile service for use on school buses](#); or mobile service for use with Wi-Fi hotspots)” and amended the explanation of “Wireless services and wireless Internet access” to note the eligibility of [off-premises use of Wi-Fi hotspots](#) and mobile wireless Internet services.
- A new note was added that basic technical support, software upgrades, bug fixes, and security patches are eligible for school bus Wi-Fi network equipment.
- The eligibility of off-campus wireless service on a school bus was clarified, as well as the requirement of cost allocation of certain off-campus use of E-Rate-funded services.
- Clarified that the cost-effectiveness test for data plans and air cards applies only to on-campus use and noted that E-Rate’s eligibility rules for basic firewall services are unchanged for FY 2025.

Off-Premises Wi-Fi Hotspots: E-Rate Eligible

- On July 18, 2024, the FCC adopted a Report and Order ([FCC 24-76](#)) making **Wi-Fi hotspots and mobile wireless Internet services for off-premises use** by students, school staff, and library patrons eligible for E-Rate program support.
- This will allow eligible schools and libraries to start **Wi-Fi hotspot lending programs** so that their students, school staff, and library patrons with need can check out E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi hotspots and services to engage in remote learning.
- Accordingly, the FCC adopted certain limitations, including funding caps per device/service and budgets, to ensure Wi-Fi hotspots are more effectively targeted to those with the greatest need.
- Wi-Fi hotspot and/or service requests will require separate applications as with School Bus Wi-Fi applications.

Off-Premises Wi-Fi Hotspots: Now E-Rate Eligible

- Eligible schools and libraries can receive E-Rate support for Wi-Fi hotspots and mobile wireless Internet services that can be used **off-premises** by students, school staff, and library patrons.
- **3-year C1 budget, \$90 device /\$15 plan caps, 45% annual limit**
- Wi-Fi hotspots and Internet services are **subject to all existing E-Rate rules and requirements**, including competitive bidding, cost allocation, and discounting rules.
- Applicants who entered into multi-year agreements for Wi-Fi hotspots services in the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) program are not exempt from competitive bidding requirements. Applicants will need to conduct competitive bidding and enter into new contracts with their provider(s).
- Service provider selection must be consistent with E-Rate program rules including selecting the **most cost-effective** service offering(s) and using price of the eligible equipment and services as the primary factor in the evaluation matrix.
- View the [Wi-Fi Hotspot Eligibility Webinar](#), [Off Premises Wi-Fi Hotspots Overview webpage](#), [Wi-Fi Hotspots Infographic](#) and [Wi-Fi Hotspot FAQs](#) for more details.

Wi-Fi Hotspots: E-Rate Eligible

- **Wi-Fi hotspot:** a device that is intended to **provide Wi-Fi connectivity to a hotspot user as its sole function.**
- Wi-Fi hotspots are **eligible as Category One (C1) network equipment** necessary to make C1 wireless Internet services functional.
 - It can be found on the FY 2025 FCC Form 470 under “I seek bids for Internet access and/or data transmission service” and “I seek bids for Category One network equipment or maintenance and operations.”
- Wi-Fi hotspot funding requests limited to fixed, **three-year budget cycle.** First cycle funding years (FY) 2025 – FY 2027.
- Off-premises equipment and services requests will be prioritized *after* on-premises Category 1 and 2 equipment and service requests.

Eligible Equipment and Services

- **To be E-Rate eligible**, Wi-Fi hotspots **must**:
 - Be portable.
 - Be a single device (i.e., not a set of linked devices).
 - Be for use with a commercially available mobile wireless Internet service.
- **What is NOT eligible** for E-Rate funding:
 - Multi-functional devices (e.g., smartphones, PCs, notebooks, tablets, customer premises equipment, routers or switches, and wireless access points, etc.).
 - Wireless services delivered to any broadband-enabled end user devices (e.g., laptops, tablets), fixed wireless connections and the related equipment, private 5G/LTE networks, fiber, and network expansion or construction.
- In addition, 1:1 Wi-Fi hotspot initiatives are not allowed, and each Wi-Fi hotspot must have an associated line of service to be eligible for E-Rate funding. Wi-Fi hotspots may not be warehoused/stored for future use or as replacements for lost, damaged, or stolen Wi-Fi hotspot devices.



Review: Types of Eligible Services

Categories of Service

- Category 1 Services are services needed to support broadband connectivity **to eligible schools and/or libraries**
- Category 2 Services are
 - Services needed for broadband connectivity **within schools and/or libraries**, and
 - Services needed to bring broadband **into** and provide it **throughout** schools and libraries.

Equipment and services may be fully or only partially eligible for E-Rate Support.

Categories of Services

- **Category One (C1)**
 - Data Transmission and/or Internet Access
 - Bus Wi-Fi
 - Off-premises Wi-Fi hotspots and service
- Visit the [Eligible Services List](#) on our website
- **Category Two (C2)**
 - Internal Connections, Managed Internal Broadband Services, and Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections
 - Applicant has a budget or limit on how much funding can be requested
 - Budget covers a five-year period (FY 2021-2025)
 - See [Category Two Budgets](#) page

Category One Services – Service to the Entity - Examples

- Leased lit fiber or leased dark fiber
- Internet access
- Satellite service
- DS-1 (T-1), DS-3 (T-3), etc.
- DSL
- Broadband over power lines
- Equipment and services supporting mobile broadband to eligible school buses and mobile wireless service to Wi-Fi hotspots

Category One Services – Service to the Entity – Eligible Costs

- Eligible costs associated with C1 services:
 - Monthly charges
 - Special Construction
 - Installation and Activation charges
 - Software
 - Modulating electronics/equipment necessary to make an eligible C1 broadband service functional.
 - Maintenance and operations charges, including costs of for software needed for the operation of or maintenance of network equipment.
 - The FY 2024 ESL clarified that the software necessary to operate or maintain Category One equipment is eligible.

Types of Category Two (C2) Services

- **Internal Connections (IC)** - The equipment and services used to bring broadband into, and provide it throughout, schools and libraries.
- **Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections (BMIC)** – Basic maintenance and technical support appropriate to maintain reliable operation for eligible broadband **internal connections**.
- **Managed Internal Broadband Services (MIBS)** – Third-party operation, management, and monitoring of eligible broadband internal connections (owned or leased equipment).

C2 services have a five-year budget, based on student count (schools) or square footage (libraries).

The type of C2 service you select must be consistent between your FCC Form 470 and FCC Form 471.

Category Two Service Type Examples

- **Internal Connections**
 - Cabling, routers, switches, and modems
 - Right-to-use software or Client Access Licenses
- **Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections (BMIC)**
 - The **repair and upkeep** of eligible cabling, routers, switches and modems.
 - Multi-year maintenance service subscriptions

Note: Only maintenance services **provided in the applicable funding year** are eligible in that year. (i.e., 1 year of a 3-year subscription should be requested on a current year funding request and invoiced a year at a time, over the 3-year period.)

- **Managed internal broadband services (MIBS)**
 - Managed Wi-Fi agreement

Recurring Services

- **Services that are billed on a monthly basis** – (e.g., broadband Internet access service).
- Must be received during the relevant funding year to be eligible for E-Rate funding. For FY 2025, this means that recurring services must be received between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026.

Non-Recurring Services

- **One-time charges for equipment and services** that are delivered and installed (e.g., wiring, other cabling or wireless installations and equipment).
- Applicants and service providers have until September 30 following the close of the funding year to deliver and install non-recurring C2 services.
- For FY 2025, this means non-recurring C2 services can be delivered from July 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026.
- This service delivery deadline can be extended under certain circumstances.


Resources

- [Eligible Services Overview Webpage](#)
- [Eligible Services List](#)
- [Eligible Services List \(ESL\) Glossary](#)
- [School Bus Wi-Fi FAQ's](#)
- [Off-Premises Wi-Fi Hotspots Overview](#)
- [Wi-Fi Hotspots FAQ's](#)
- [Fiber – Summary Overview](#)
- [Fiber Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Webinars:](#)
 - [E-Rate Fall Training: E-Rate Program Overview \(September 16, 2024\)](#)
 - [E-Rate Fall Training: Eligible Services 101 \(September 24, 2024\)](#)
 - [E-Rate Fall Training: Category Two Budgets \(October 17, 2024\)](#)

Live Q&A

- Submit your questions about today's topics:
 - Eligible Services List
 - What's new for FY 2025
 - Review: Types of Eligible Equipment and Services

Questions ×



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Questions you send and answers from the staff will appear here

Enter your question

Your question will be sent to staff Send

Q&A Tips

- ✓ Type your queries into the “Questions” box in your webinar control panel.
- ✓ Write in full sentences.
- ✓ Ask one question at a time.
- ✓ Click the box with the arrow above the questions box to expand it and see all the written answers.

Questions?

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Learn

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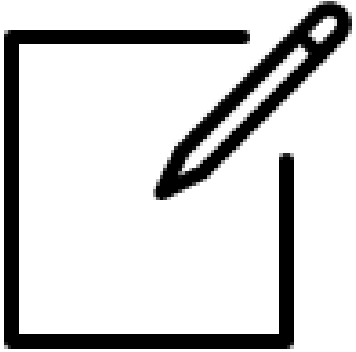
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Share Your Thoughts



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- We appreciate your feedback!

Thank You!





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