

## Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program

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February 21, 2025

On January 17, 2025, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a [Public Notice](#) announcing the participants selected for the Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program (Pilot or Pilot Program).

In total, more than 700 schools, libraries, and consortia were selected to receive up to \$200 million over a three-year period to purchase a variety of eligible cybersecurity services and equipment. In the Public Notice, the FCC noted that the application filing window to request funding for the Pilot Program using the Pilot FCC Form 471 will run from March 18 – September 15, 2025. The [full list of selected participants](#) can be found in the [Public Notice](#), Appendices A and B.

USAC will provide ongoing resources and training to help all participants understand the Pilot Program requirements, complete necessary forms, and successfully participate in the program.

### Competitive Bidding and the Pilot FCC Form 470

Unless eligible for a competitive bidding exemption, Pilot Program participants must conduct a fair and open competitive bidding process to identify and request the cybersecurity equipment and services they need for the Pilot, so that potential service providers can review those requests and submit bids in response to them. Participants begin the competitive bidding process by submitting and certifying the Pilot FCC Form 470 in the Cybersecurity Pilot Program portal. Pilot Program participants must wait at least 28 from the date the Pilot FCC Form 470 is certified and posted on USAC's website before entering into a legally binding agreement or contract with a service provider(s). This date is known as the Allowable Contract Date (ACD).

Pilot Program participants can begin the competitive bidding process now. For more information about the process, please visit the [Competitive Bidding webpage](#) on USAC's website.

USAC hosted a training on February 4, 2025 to walk participants through the competitive bidding process and requirements, and highlight key features of the Pilot FCC Form 470. Visit the [Webinars webpage](#) to view the webinar recording and [slides](#).

### Pilot FCC Form 484 Part 2

All Pilot Program participants were required to complete and submit the Pilot FCC Form 484 Part 1 to indicate their interest in being selected for the Pilot Program. As a selected participant in the Pilot Program, you are now required to complete and submit the second portion of the FCC Form 484 application, i.e., the Pilot FCC Form 484 Part 2. Part 2 of the Pilot FCC Form 484 collects more detailed cybersecurity data and Pilot project information from Pilot participants than Part 1 of the form. The data gathered on the form will help the FCC evaluate whether, and to what extent, it should use the Universal Service Fund (USF) to support the cybersecurity needs of eligible schools and libraries going forward.

As a reminder, due to the sensitive nature of the cybersecurity-related information collected on Parts 1 and 2 of the FCC Form 484, the FCC will treat the information collected as presumptively confidential under its rules and withhold it from routine public inspection. The FCC also will not share the information collected on the form with

other federal agencies for incident reporting or compliance purposes.

The Pilot FCC Form 484 Part 2 is now available in the Cybersecurity Pilot Program portal and must be submitted by September 15, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. E.T. Pilot participants cannot receive a funding commitment decision letter (FCDL) until their Pilot FCC Form 484 Part 2 is submitted to USAC. Participants who fail to timely submit a Pilot FCC Form 484 Part 2 and/or the Pilot FCC Form 471 will be subject to removal from the Pilot Program.

For more information about the Pilot FCC Form 484 Part 2, please visit [USAC's website](#).

USAC hosted a Pilot FCC Form 484 Part 2 training on February 13, 2025. Visit the [Webinars webpage](#) to view the webinar recording and [slides](#).

## Requests for Funding and the Pilot FCC Form 471

After Pilot participants complete the competitive bidding process and select their service provider(s), they can request Pilot Program funding using the Pilot FCC Form 471. The Pilot FCC Form 471 application filing window will run from March 18, 2025 at 8 a.m. E.T. through September 15, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. E.T. All program participants must submit a Pilot FCC Form 471 during the window to receive Pilot Program funding for their eligible cybersecurity services and equipment.

USAC will host a training on the Pilot FCC Form 471 on March 18, 2025 at 3 p.m. ET. Please [register](#) to participate in the training.

## Appeals and Waiver Requests

Any aggrieved party that wishes to appeal a USAC decision must first file an appeal with USAC to seek review before filing an appeal with the FCC. Appeals for the Pilot Program can be filed using the following email address: [sldcyberinquiries@usac.org](mailto:sldcyberinquiries@usac.org). Once USAC has made a decision on an appeal, the party may appeal USAC's decision to the FCC.

Parties seeking a waiver of FCC rules (e.g., waiver of a deadline) should file a waiver request directly with the FCC because USAC cannot waive FCC rules. Waiver requests must be submitted using the FCC's [Electronic Comment Filing System \(ECFS\)](#) and submitted under WC Docket No. 23-324.

Please remember that the Pilot FCC Form 484 contains confidential information and should not be included with an appeal or waiver request unless it is necessary to help the FCC or USAC understand the requested relief. If you include a Pilot FCC Form 484 with an appeal or waiver request submitted to the FCC, to request confidential treatment, please deliver the appeal or waiver request to the Secretary's Office and, pursuant to sections 0.457-0.459 of the FCC's rules, request that the submission be treated as a confidential filing. Additional information is available at [How do I submit a Confidential Filing? FAQ](#) on the FCC's website.

You must file your Pilot Program appeal or waiver request within 30 days of the date USAC issued the decision. See 47 C.F.R. [§ 54.2012](#) of the FCC's rules on filing a Pilot Program appeal/waiver request. Please note that this is a shorter timeframe than the appeal filing deadline in the E-Rate program.

**Note:** If the deadline to file an appeal/waiver request falls on a weekend or on a federal holiday, the deadline to file the appeal/waiver request is the first business day following that weekend or holiday.

For further information about the appeal/waiver process and what to include in your appeal, please visit the [File an Appeal/Waiver Request](#) webpage.

## Key Dates

**January 17, 2025:** Pilot FCC Form 470 and Pilot FCC Form 484 Part 2 available in the Cybersecurity Pilot Program Portal.

**March 18, 2025:** Pilot FCC Form 471 application filing window opens.

**July 1, 2025:** Last date to voluntarily withdraw from the Pilot Program.

**August 18, 2025:** Deadline to submit the Pilot FCC Form 470.

**September 15, 2025:** Pilot FCC Form 471 application filing window closes and deadline to submit the Pilot FCC Form 484 Part 2.

## Stay Connected

USAC will share information, resources, and training opportunities throughout the Pilot Program. If you received this email, you are signed up for ongoing program outreach.

If you have additional contacts who you would like to receive information about trainings, program updates, and deadline reminders – or if this email was forwarded to you – please [sign up for program outreach](#). Please note that signing up for email outreach will not change your contact settings in the E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC) or the Cybersecurity Pilot Program Portal.

### Need Help? Contact Us!

Call us at (888) 203-8100 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. E.T. or submit a case in EPC.

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