Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program Newsletter

September 16, 2024

The Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program (Pilot Program) is a three-year program providing up to $200 million in Universal Service Fund (USF) support to offset the cost of eligible cybersecurity services and equipment to protect eligible schools' and libraries' broadband networks and data.

The Pilot Program application filing window will open tomorrow, **September 17, 2024 at 8 am, E.T.** From **September 17, 2024 to November 1, 2024**, schools, libraries, and consortia applicants will be able to access the Pilot Program FCC Form 484 Part 1 in the E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC) and begin completing it. Each applicant should only complete one Pilot Program application and apply as either an individual school or library, or as part of a consortium.

Note: As stated in the FCC's September 4 [Public Notice](#), applicants will **not** be able to certify their FCC Form 484 Part 1 until the FCC issues a notice announcing the effective date of sections 54.2004, 54.2005, 54.2006, and 54.2008 of the FCC's rules for the Pilot Program in the Federal Register. Applicants can start the form in EPC and save it as a draft beginning September 17. The FCC and USAC will announce when applications may be certified and submitted.

Application Resources

Applicants can review the [FCC Form 484 Part 1 User Guide](#) before the application filing window opens to prepare themselves to apply. USAC-hosted [webinar recordings](#) are also available to help applicants understand the Pilot Program and the FCC Form 484 Part 1.

Manage Pilot Program User Permissions in EPC

Before the application filing window opens, applicants can make administrative updates in EPC for the Pilot Program, including selecting an Account Administrator (i.e., an employee of the school, library, school district, library system, or consortium who will manage the applicant's account), grant rights to other users (including consultants and other third parties), and provide or update information on the individual schools in the applicant's school district or library sites in the applicant's library system.

The Account Administrator determines which users will be able to access EPC and designates who can view, create, certify, and submit Pilot Program forms and requests. An overview of the available user permission levels is provided below.

- **Full-Rights** users will be able to complete, certify, and submit forms on behalf of the school, library, school district, library system, or consortium, and update profile information and receive all Pilot Program communications from USAC.
- **Partial-Rights** users will be able to add users to EPC, complete forms (but not certify and submit those forms), and update profile information.
- **View-Only Rights** users will be able to view (but not update) information in EPC and will not be able to certify and submit forms.

To review and set [user permission levels](#):

1. Log into EPC
2. From the landing page, click **Manage Users**
3. Check the checkbox for your Billed Entity Number (BEN) and select **Manage User Permissions**
4. Select **Cybersecurity Pilot Program Portal User Permissions**
5. Select the appropriate Cybersecurity Pilot Program FCC Form 484 permission level for each user
6. Click **Submit**

To update user permission levels, add users, reactivate a deactivated user, or submit a customer service case, please see the [EPC Navigation Guide](#).

Applicants on Red Light on Date Application Window Opens Not Eligible for Pilot Program

Applicants will not be eligible for the Pilot Program if they are on Red Light or share a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) with an entity on Red Light on September 17, 2024, when the FCC Form 484 Part 1 application filing window opens. To confirm that your entity is eligible to apply to participate in the Pilot Program, check your entity's [Red Light status](#) through the FCC's [Commission Registration System (CORES)](#).

If your entity is on Red Light, you must pay the amount(s) owed and resolve the Red Light status prior to September 17, 2024.

Reminder: Consultant Limit for EPC Accounts in Cybersecurity Pilot Program Portal

Due to the sensitive nature of the data collected in the FCC Form 484 application, USAC will limit the number of consultants who can access an applicant's form in the Cybersecurity Pilot Program Portal to three consultants. A list of the consultants who currently have access to an applicant's EPC profile will be transferred to the Cybersecurity Pilot Program Portal prior to the launch of Part 1 of the FCC Form 484 application. However, the applicant's Account Administrator (i.e., a school, library, or consortium official) must grant a consultant access to the applicant's EPC account in the Cybersecurity Pilot Program Portal and applicants will be limited to three consultants per applicant account for the FCC Form 484. The Pilot Program consultant limitations will not affect the applicant's E-Rate program user experience or account management for the E-Rate program in EPC.

Upcoming Trainings

Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program FCC Form 484 Part 1 System Walkthrough
September 17, 2024 at 3 p.m. ET – [Register](#)

Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program Overview for Service Providers
October 15, 2024 at 3 p.m. ET – [Register](#)

Office Hours

USAC will host a series of office hours sessions where applicants can ask application-related questions and receive answers from USAC staff. USAC will not present new Pilot Program information during these sessions. Each office hour session will be targeted to specific applicant audiences and will have limited registration spots available. To allow all applicants an opportunity to have their questions answered, please only register for one office hours session, and please register for the session that reflects your entity type.

Office Hours – Individual Applicants
October 1, 2024 at 3 p.m. E.T. - [Register](#)

Office Hours – New to EPC Applicants
October 2, 2024 at 3 p.m. E.T. – [Register](#)

Office Hours – Consortia Applicants
October 3, 2024 at 3 p.m. E.T. - Register

Pilot Program Resources

To learn more about cybersecurity, visit the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency website and the Department of Education Cybersecurity Preparedness website.

To learn more about the Pilot Program, including its timeline and trainings, visit USAC's Cybersecurity Pilot Program webpage and sign up for Pilot Program emails. Visit the Learn section of our website to find newsletters, webinars, and FAQs. Interested applicants can also visit the FCC's Cybersecurity webpage for further resources.

Need Help? Contact Us!
Call us at (888) 203-8100 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET or submit a case in EPC.