



Schools & Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program Participant Overview

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Schools & Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program Overview

Pilot Program Overview

- The FCC established the **Schools & Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program** to provide up to \$200 million in Universal Service Fund (USF) support to participating eligible schools, libraries, and consortia of schools and libraries over a three-year term to defray the costs of eligible cybersecurity services and equipment.
- Data gathered from the Pilot Program will help the FCC evaluate whether, and to what extent, it should use the USF to support the cybersecurity needs of eligible schools and libraries going forward.

Pilot Program Participants

- Interested schools, libraries, and consortia applied for the Pilot Program using the Pilot FCC Form 484 Part 1 in the Fall of 2024. The application window for the Pilot FCC Form 484 Part 1 ran from September 17, 2024 through November 1, 2024.
- On January 16, 2025, the FCC released a [Public Notice](#) announcing the selected Pilot Program participants. In all, 707 applicants were selected as Pilot participants, which includes 540 school districts, 105 schools, 40 library systems, 10 libraries, and 12 consortia.

Pilot Program Participants: Timeline



1

- Participants conduct minimum 28-Day **Competitive Bidding** process using Pilot FCC Form 470
- Pilot FCC Form 470 is available in the Cybersecurity Pilot Program portal E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC) now and must be completed by August 18, 2025 to be timely filed.



2

- Participants submit Pilot Program **Funding Request(s)** using the Pilot FCC Form 471
- Pilot FCC Form 471 application filing window runs from March 18 – September 15, 2025



3

- Participants complete the **Pilot FCC Form 484 Part 2**
- Participants must complete Part 2 by September 15, 2025 to be eligible for Pilot Program funding

Pilot Program: Competitive Bidding

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- Participating schools, libraries, and consortia must complete a minimum 28-day competitive bidding process to seek bids for eligible cybersecurity equipment and services.
- Participants will use the Pilot FCC Form 470 in the Cybersecurity Pilot Program portal to initiate competitive bidding.
- The competitive bidding process must be fair and open for all interested service providers.
- After waiting at least 28 days, participants can select a service provider after carefully reviewing the bids and selecting the most cost-effective offering.
- Participants can begin the competitive bidding process now.

Pilot Program: Competitive Bidding

Cybersecurity Pilot Program Competitive Bidding Exemption (CBE)

- Participants that wish to rely on a Master Services Agreement (MSA) or State Master Contract (SMC) that is negotiated by federal, state, Tribal, or local government entities on behalf of the participant will not be required to seek competitive bids provided that the MSA/SMC was awarded pursuant to the E-Rate FCC Form 470 process, as well as applicable federal, state, Tribal, or local competitive bidding requirements.
 - To qualify for the competitive bidding exemption (CBE), all MSA/SMC requests must be submitted to USAC for review within 60 days of the FCC's Public Notice.
 - All MSAs/SMCs that qualify for the CBE will be posted on USAC's website with the establishing E-Rate FCC Form 470 for use by Pilot participants who qualify to use the contract.

Pilot Program: Request for Funding

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- After participants complete the competitive bidding process and select a service provider, they can request funding.
- Participants request funding by completing the Pilot FCC Form 471 in the Cybersecurity Pilot Program portal.
- Once the Pilot FCC Form 471 is reviewed and processed by USAC, participants and service providers will receive a Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL).
- The Pilot FCC Form 471 application filing window opens March 18 and closes September 15, 2025.

Pilot Program: Pilot FCC Form 484 Part 2

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- Interested applicants were required to complete the Pilot FCC Form 484 Part 1 to apply to be participants in the Pilot Program.
- All selected Pilot participants must now complete the Pilot FCC Form 484 Part 2 by the close of the Pilot Program FCC Form 471 application filing window (i.e., September 15, 2025).
- The data gathered will allow the FCC to evaluate whether, to what extent, it should use the Universal Service Fund to support the cybersecurity needs of eligible schools and libraries going forward.
- Participants who do not complete Part 2 of the Pilot FCC Form 484 by September 15, 2025 will be subject to removal from the Pilot Program.

Questions?

Pilot Program: Resources and Training

Pilot Program: Resources

- USAC will host [Pilot Program trainings](#)
- Sign up for Pilot Program [participant emails](#)
- [Pilot FCC Form 470](#) and [FCC Form 484 Part 2](#) User Guides
- [FCC Cybersecurity Pilot Program Website](#)
- [USAC Cybersecurity Pilot Program Website](#)

Pilot Program: Upcoming Trainings

- **Competitive Bidding and Pilot FCC Form 470 Webinar**
February 4 @ 3 p.m. E.T.
[Register](#)
- **Pilot FCC Form 484 Part 2 Webinar**
February 13 @ 3 p.m. E.T.
[Register](#)

Thank You!





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