ECF HIGHLIGHTS

Overview Intent of ECF:

- The focus of ECF is to fund **off-campus learning** during the pandemic. It funds both bandwidth and end user devices.
- Don't know dates of the filing window yet…probably sometime in the month of June.
- This is a ONE TIME fund…and when the funds are exhausted they will not be replenished.
- Is separate from the E-rate program its bandwidth. The rules of ECF do NOT apply to the E-rate supported bandwidth.
- ECF funded bandwidth CAN be used at off campus locations wherever "educational purpose" activities occur off of campus or outside of the library.
- It will NOT pay for a fixed connection to a school or library….that is paid for in the E-rate program.
- ECF funds can support student AND teacher connectivity, as well as library patron connectivity
- ECF will fund devices and/or connections for students that currently do not have one
- You will have to register with **SAM.gov** (need EIN and DUNS for your organization)
- Documents for ECF will need to be retained for 10 years
- The Gifting Rules will apply (modified) for ECF
- There will be a 30 day appeal deadline from any funding decision
- Inventory/asset tracking will be required for both devices and bandwidth connections
- Schools and libraries have to keep the equipment purchased for 3 years, after which it will be considered obsolete.

Eligible Services:

- If you have a 1:1 device issued *you cannot order another one* unless their current device has aged out or is not adequate for interactive learning.
- Up to $400 per laptop/tablet device will be 100% reimbursed
- Any device you order will have to be issued to a patron/student and be sent home with them. It can be used on campus but the primary purpose is non-campus use.
- ECF will pay for 1 hotspot per user or fixed connection for home for any student/teacher or library patron.
- ECF will pay for up to $250 for a Wi-fi hot spot.
- ECF will not pay for buildout, unless there is no service offered and the applicant must document that need.
- Only one device per student/patron is allowed
- There is NO allowance for breakage or spares….you won't be reimbursed for the overage
- No smartphones are allowed for reimbursement as an end user device for ECF, as are desktops.
- User credentials are required for access to the learning devices.
- Bundled warranties are eligible, unbundled warranties are not.
- Eligible Equipment means Wi-Fi hotspots, modems, routers, devices that combine a modem and router, and connected devices.

Timeline:

- 45 day application window
- Initial Window Opens sometime mid to late June
- First filing window will be for NEW purchases made 7/1/21 – 6/30/22 (this differs from what they originally thought in the draft order)
- If there is money after the first window then the FCC can open up additional filing window for new purchases as well as a retroactive reimbursement from March 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 purchases.
- The filing window openings will continue until the ECF is depleted.

Application Process for First Filing Window:

- Will use E-rate portal and Forms
- **No Form 470** because there is no competitive bidding…they are relying on state/local rules and the funding caps
- No funding decisions will be issued until the filing window closes. The first funding will be announced 15 days after the filing window closes.
- FCDL will start to be issued around the end of August
- No Form 486 will be required. The CIPA certification will move to the Form 471.

Reimbursement:

You can seek reimbursement before you actually pay for the service.

You will have to pay for the service/equipment within 30 days of receipt of reimbursement

You have 60 days from the date of your funding notification to submit your reimbursement to USAC

You have to have an invoice in hand when you submit the invoice and be prepared to provide it.

If your service provider agrees to invoice by a SPI you will need to indicate that on your Form 471 (which will be modified for the ECF program)

CIPA:

- If the school or library owns the device AND is receiving E-rate for Internet the CIPA is required.
- If the applicant owns the device (regardless of who pays for the bandwidth) you do not need to comply with CIPA.
- Your CIPA certification will be on the Form 471, rather than the 486.