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Libraries: Application Window Open for Emergency Connectivity Fund

The application window for the new Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) is open. Libraries can apply for funding to offset the costs of eligible equipment and services that support remote learning and connectivity for students, teachers, and library patrons.

The filing window closes August 13.

Libraries that are eligible for support under the E-Rate program are also eligible for funding from the ECF. Libraries do **not** currently need to be participating in the E-Rate program to apply for ECF funding. The agency administering the program is the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), which also administers the E-Rate program. Note that because this program is funded by the federal government, internet filtering is required for CIPA compliance.

Qualifying Equipment and Services

The following types of equipment are eligible for support:

- Laptop and tablet computers
- Wi-Fi hotspots
- Modems (including air cards)
- Routers
- Devices that combine a modem and router.

Libraries can also receive funding for broadband internet service that provides a fixed or mobile broadband connection for use by library patrons who would otherwise lack access to connectivity sufficient to engage in remote learning.

About the ECF

The Emergency Connectivity Fund is a \$7.17 billion program funded by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to help schools and libraries support remote learning. The program will provide funding to schools and libraries for the reasonable costs of eligible equipment and services that can be provided to students, teachers, and library patrons who lack connected devices, such as laptop or tablet computers, and/or lack broadband access during the pandemic.

[Read the ECF FAQs](#) to find out more and apply on the ECF website:

[Apply for the Emergency Connectivity Fund](#)

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