

PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission 45 L Street NE Washington, DC 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500 Internet: https://www.fcc.gov

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INVOICING REMINDER FOR EMERGENCY CONNECTIVITY FUND PARTICIPANTS AS PROGRAM SUNSETS

WC Docket No. 21-93

Consistent with past guidance,¹ we remind applicants that June 30, 2024 is the sunset date for the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) program. To be eligible for reimbursement, all purchases of equipment and/or services must have been made by this date.² For funding requests with a June 30, 2024 service delivery date, August 29, 2024 is the invoicing filing deadline. As soon as the August 29, 2024 invoice filing deadline passes, USAC will begin the de-obligation process for any remaining unused funding. Due to the Congressional funding rescission,³ the Bureau does not expect to grant any waivers of the invoice filing deadline.

The Bureau strongly recommends applicants and service providers file requests for reimbursement as soon as possible to reduce delays near the August 29, 2024 invoice filing deadline. We also encourage applicants to assist the Commission and other ECF participants by filing post-commitment requests to reduce or cancel funding requests that will not be used.⁴ This will aid USAC in determining invoice volume and if sufficient funds can be returned in accordance with the Congressional funding rescission, the Commission will again be able to process post-commitment requests and make certain commitment adjustments.

The Bureau recently updated the ECF Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), <u>https://www.fcc.gov/emergency-connectivity-fund-faqs</u>, with information about the Congressional funding rescission and how to cancel ECF funding commitments that are not going to be used. For further information, please contact Kate Dumouchel, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, at <u>kate.dumouchel@fcc.gov</u> or 202-418-1839.

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¹ Wireline Competition Bureau and Office of the Managing Director Provide Guidance on Emergency Connectivity Fund Program Upon Termination of the Emergency Period, WC Docket No. 21-93, Public Notice, DA 23-406 (WCB May 12, 2023) (ECF Sunset Guidance Public Notice).

² American Rescue Plan Act, 2021, H.R. 1319, Pub. L. No. 117-2, 117th Cong., tit. VII, § 7402(a)(1)-(2) (2021) (enacted), available at <u>https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1319/text</u> (American Rescue Plan Act) (enrolled bill).

³ Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, H.R. 2882, Pub. L. No. 118-364, 118th Cong., tit. VI § 639 (2024) (enacted), available at <u>https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/2882/text</u> ("[o]f the unobligated balances of amounts made available under section 7402(c)(2)(A) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2), \$1,768,000,000 are hereby rescinded not later than September 30, 2024.").

⁴ For additional information about reducing or cancelling a funding request, please visit <u>https://www.emergencyconnectivityfund.org/ecf-post-commitment-request-form/post-commitment-changes/</u>.