



GUIDE TO E-RATE FUNDING 2025

FUNDING YEAR 2025—FORM 470

It's time to apply for 2025 E-Rate funding. This guide will help you navigate the application process with some of the key facts and dates for this funding window. USAC (Universal Service Administrative Company) had made Form 470 available for Funding Year 2025, but with the addition of needed updates on September 19 in the E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC). Form 470 for the next funding year, normally available as of July 1, had been delayed in 2024 awaiting the FCC's new hotspot order (FCC 24-76) to be published in the Federal Register.

New items on the FY 2025 Form 470 include:

- Ability to request hotspot devices and wireless internet services
- Enhanced options to request school bus Wi-Fi services and equipment
- The ability to upload RFPs and other documents to the Form 470 after certification, even if the original Form 470 had no attachment(s)
- An ability to cancel a Form 470

Training Schedule

USAC and State E-Rate Coordinators (SECA) will hold training in October to discuss the updated form. Here is a list of October USAC trainings:

E-Rate Fall Training:

Category Two Budgets—[Register Here](#)

Date: Thursday, October 17, 2024

Time: 02:00 pm ET – 03:00 pm ET

E-Rate Fall Training:

EPC Administrative Window—[Register Here](#)

Date: Thursday, October 24, 2024

Time: 02:00 pm ET – 03:00 pm ET

New Funding Year 2025—Lending Hotspots

While you are waiting for these trainings, some quick points on how E-Rate lending hotspots will be handle differently than ECF did includes:

1. **C3 Budget**—A maximum pre-discount amount an applicant may request across three funding years, similar to C2 budgets
2. **Reporting**—Require usage reporting at 30, 60 and 90 days (with required action)

The hotspot budgets for both schools and libraries will be determined by the formulas below:

$$\text{Independent School or District Budget} = (\text{student count} \times \frac{20 \text{ hotspots}}{100 \text{ students}} \times \text{C1 discount rate}) \times \$630$$

$$\text{Library or Library System Budget} = (\text{square feet} \times \frac{5.5 \text{ hotspots}}{1000 \text{ square feet}} \times \text{C1 discount rate}) \times \$630$$

Four important points should be noted concerning the school and library budget formulations:

1. **Funding Years**—Budgets will cover three full funding years, FY 2025–FY 2027.
2. **Student Counts**—Although Head Start, pre-kindergarten, and kindergarten students are deemed ineligible for funded hotspot services, student counts used for hotspot budget calculations will be the same as used for Category 2 budgets
3. **Yearly Per Device Amounts**—The \$630 factor reflects a \$90 hotspot equipment charge and 36 months of wireless internet service at \$15/month ($\$90 + (36 \times \$15) = \630).
4. **Device Minimums**—The formulas above are to be rounded up to the nearest 10, which makes small schools and libraries eligible for at least 10 devices.

How Can UScellular® Help?

As a cellular partner with experience assisting schools and libraries, we can serve as the enablement arm to help guide you through the often-complicated E-Rate acquisition process. UScellular is a partner that provides:

- **An In-house E-Rate Specialist** to help you navigate the application process and provide consultative reviews to help you achieve long-term goals
- **A Local Solutions Expert** committed to support in your community
- **Secure Networks** to protect patrons by employing mobile device management and private networks
- **Stable Connections** to continue educating with high-speed internet on a reliable 5G mobile network
- **Connected Devices** such as hotspots, smartphones, laptops and tablets
- **Seamless Collaboration** to connect and work in and out of the library with cloud-based communications, messaging and video conferencing

UScellular® works with schools and libraries in both urban and rural settings to connect patrons to the internet through secure private networks, mobile hotspots, connected devices, cloud-based communications and local expert guidance. Are you ready to see if you are taking advantage of all the E-Rate offerings? Set up a no-commitment consultation with our Education Funding and E-Rate Team to uncover potential gaps in your application process. Let's connect.

Our in-house experts are here to help you secure funding and choose the options for your needs.

Contact our E-Rate specialists at schoolsandlibraries@uscellular.com to ensure a smooth and successful application process.

