

E-Rate Eligible Services 101: Fund Year (FY) 2024 Update & Question and Answer (Q/A) Session January 18, 2024

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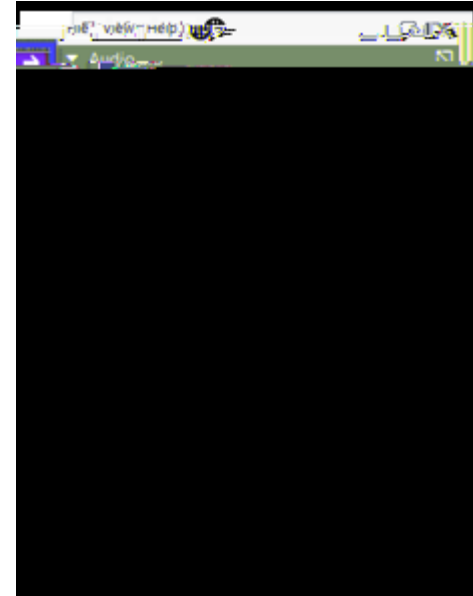
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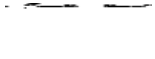
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- There will be a live Q&A session focused on today's topics.
- Tips for submitting questions:
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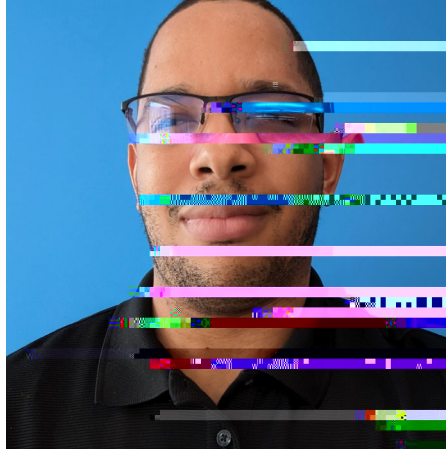
1. Log in to EPC.
2. Select the **Contact Us** link from the upper right menu on the landing page.

MEET THE TEAM



Bernie Manns

Sr. Director | E-Rate program



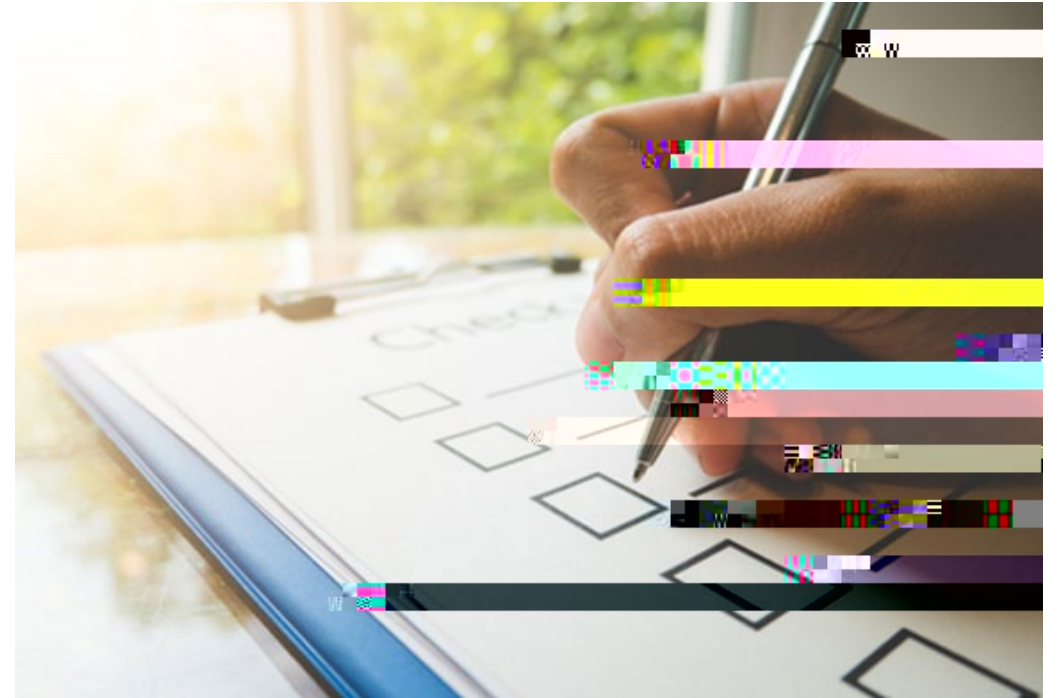
Derrick Harrison

Program Analyst | E-Rate Program

- Program

The Eligible Services List (ESL)

- Each year, before the opening of the application filing window, the FCC releases a list containing general guidance on the equipment and services that are E-Rate eligible for the upcoming funding year.



Eligible Services List (ESL)

- The ESL also provides helpful information such as **eligibility conditions**

What's New: Funding Year (FY) 2024

Eligible Services List (ESL) FY2024: What's New

- Clarifies that software necessary to operate or maintain Category One network equipment, such as Required Right-To-Use software for an edge router needed to make a Category One service function, is **eligible**.
- Clarifies that consulting fees unrelated to installation and configuration, such as services related to application assistance or E-Rate program advice, are **not eligible** for E-Rate.
- Makes equipment and services necessary to provide **connectivity** on **school buses E-Rate eligible** when used for **educational purposes**.

School Buses: Eligibility of Mobile Broadband Connectivity

Mobile broadband connectivity for school buses is eligible as a Category One service

- The Wireless bullet on the ESL was modified to clarify this new eligibility.
 - From: “Wireless (e.g. fixed wireless, microwave)”
 - To: “Wireless (e.g., fixed wireless; microwave; or **mobile service for use on school buses**)”
- Installation Fees and Equipment needed to make this wireless service for school buses functional are also eligible under Category One.
- Separate maintenance and operations services related to mobile broadband connectivity for school buses are **not eligible**.

School Buses: Types Eligible for E-Rate Support

School bus Wi-Fi services are eligible for buses that are school-owned, as well as leased or contracted school buses, provided that

School Buses: Prohibition on Redundant/Duplicative Services

Clarification of prohibition on redundant or duplicative services for school bus wireless services.

- Schools may **situationally enter into agreements with multiple providers** such as when some buses are served by one provider, and other buses by a different provider.
- Rural applicants may select a solution that allows a bus to be served by multiple providers. Schools and school districts can check their urban/rural status [here](#).

School Buses: Competitive Bidding

- Applicants are not required to compare costs between a given service plan for providing school bus Wi-Fi and other technological approaches to deliver connectivity to end user devices. Other than the previously noted clarifications, school bus Wi-Fi is subject to all existing E-Rate rules and requirements, including those related to competitive bidding, cost allocation, and discounting rules.
- Applicants who entered into multi-year agreements for Bus Wi-Fi in the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) program are **not exempt** from competitive bidding requirements.
- The competitive bidding exemption for Commercially Available Business Class Internet Option (CABIO) services **does not apply to bus services**. It only applies to services delivered to a school or library building.
- Service provider selection must be consistent with E-Rate program rules including selecting the most cost-effective service offering(s), using **price of the eligible equipment and services as the primary factor** in the evaluation matrix.

Categories of Service

- Category One (C1) Services are services needed to support broadband connectivity **to eligible schools, libraries, and/or eligible buses transporting students.**
- Category Two (C2) Services are
 - Services needed for broadband connectivity **within schools and/or libraries**, and
 - Services needed to bring broadband **into** and provide it **throughout** schools and libraries.

Products and services **may be fully or only partially eligible.**

Review: Types of

Categories of Service

- C1 Services include:
 - Internet Access
 - Data Transmission
 - Wireless mobile broadband for school buses (equipment and services)
- There is no budget limit on (C1) services.
- C2 services have a five-year budget, based on student count (schools) or square footage (libraries). The current five-year budget cycle runs from FY 2021 to FY 2025.
- C2 Services include:
 - Internal Connections
 - Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections
 - Managed Internal Broadband Services

Category One Services – Service to the Entity - Examples

- Leased lit fiber or leased dark fiber
- Internet access
- Satellite service
- DS-1 (T-1), DS-3 (T-3), etc.
- DSL
- Broadband over power lines
- Equipment and Services supporting mobile broadband to eligible school buses

Category One Services – Service to the Entity – Eligible Costs

- Eligible costs associated with C1 services:
 - Monthly charges
 - Special Construction
 - Installation and Activation charges
 - Software
 - Modulating electronics/equipment necessary to make an eligible C1 broadband service functional.
 - Maintenance and operations charges, including costs of for software needed for the operation of or maintenance of Network Equipment.
 - The FY 2024 ESL clarifies that the software necessary to operate or maintain C1 equipment is eligible.

Types of Category Two (C2) Services

- **Internal Connections (IC)** - The equipment and services used to bring broadband into, and provide it throughout, schools and libraries.
- **Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections (BMIC)** – Basic maintenance and technical support appropriate to maintain reliable operation for eligible broadband **internal connections**.
- **Managed Internal Broadband Services (MIBS)** – Third-party operation, management, and monitoring of eligible broadband internal connections (owned or leased equipment).

C2 services have a five-year budget, based on student count (schools) or square footage (libraries).

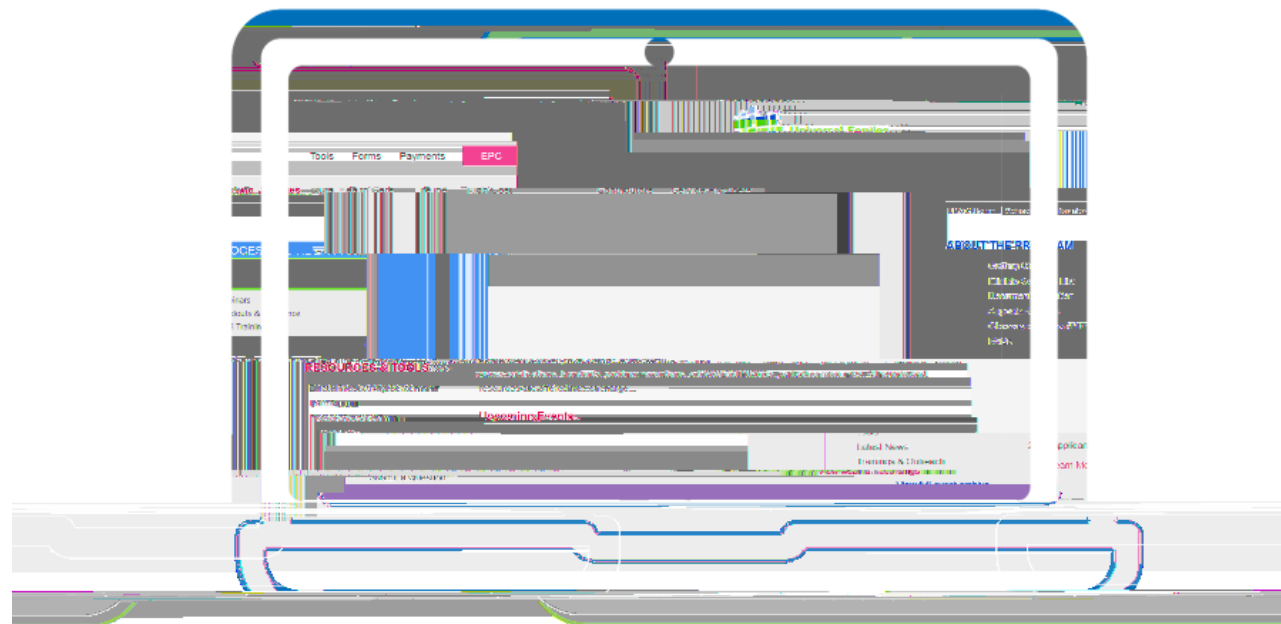
The type of C2 service you select must be consistent between your FCC Form 470 and FCC Form 471.

Non-Recurring Services

- **One-time charges for equipment and services** that are delivered and installed (e.g., wiring, other cabling or wireless installations and equipment).
- Applicants and service providers have until September 30 following the close of the

Resources

- [Eligible Services Overview Webpage](#)
- [Eligible Services List](#)
- [Eligible Services List \(ESL\) Glossary](#)
- [Fiber – Summary Overview](#)
- [Fiber Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Webinars:](#)
 - [Eligible Services 101 Webinar \(October 12, 2023\)](#)
 - [Category 2 \(C2\) Webinar \(October 17, 2023\)](#)
 - [E-Rate Overview Webinar \(October 4, 2023\)](#)



QUESTION AND ANSWER WEBINARS

- Participants should read the assigned materials and watch assigned videos in advanced of the webinar and come prepared to ask questions during the Q&A.
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Housekeeping Q & A

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Questions

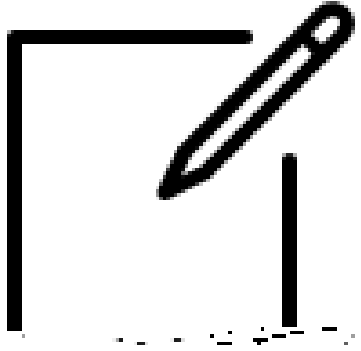
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January 23 at 2 p.m. ET

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