

# A GUIDE TO FEDERAL EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY FUNDING



The American Rescue Plan, a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package, was signed into law in March 2021. Included in the legislation is the creation of the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) for broadband internet service and equipment to support off-campus learning.

Here's everything to know about the ECF, including highlights, eligibility and important deadlines.

## EMERGENCY CONNECTIVITY FUND (ECF)

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Designed to support off-campus teaching and learning needs.
- ECF will be administered via USAC with a similar process to E-rate
- All libraries and schools are encouraged to file to help capture the full extent of the needs for off campus learning

### WHO'S ELIGIBLE

- Students, school staff and library patrons who lack access to a device or connection services sufficient to enable participation in learning when not on a physical campus or at a library

### WHAT'S COVERED

- **Broadband Connections:** Equipment (e.g., Wi-Fi hotspots), services and limited support for areas lacking broadband networks
- **Connected Learning Devices:** Laptops and tablets (one per student) up to \$400



### ECF APPLICATION PROCESS

- **Who applies:** All schools and libraries eligible for E-rate
- **Availability:** Funding will be available for eligible purchases made between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022
- **Where to apply:** Via the existing E-rate online portal ("EPC")
- **When to apply:** The filing window is expected to open late June/early July. Apply as soon as available
- **Deadline:** When funding is no longer available OR one year after pandemic officially declared "over"

For more information about the ECF, visit [www.fundsforlearning.com/ecf/](http://www.fundsforlearning.com/ecf/)

### SNAPSHOT:

## ESSER AND EMERGENCY BROADBAND BENEFIT (EBB) FUNDING

### FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS

- ESSER funds are available to improve distance learning engagement and technologies. Covers home connectivity solutions (hardware, software, internet access).
- Households eligible for free and reduced lunch may qualify for EBB funding to support off-campus connections at the homes of school and library patrons.

### ESSER OVERVIEW

- **ESSER I (via CARES): \$13.2B**  
**Applicant:** SEA **Deadline to Use:** 09/30/2021
- **ESSER II (via CRRSA): \$54.3B**  
**Applicant:** SEA **Deadline to Use:** 09/30/2022
- **ESSER III (via ARP): \$122B**  
**Applicant:** SEA **Deadline to Use:** 09/30/2023

### EBB (VIA CRRSA) FUNDS

- **\$3.2B**  
**Applicant:** Eligible Households  
**Deadline to Use:** Once program funds are exhausted OR six months after end of pandemic officially declared "over"

Funds For Learning is available to provide high quality consulting and support service for the short- and long-term needs of E-Rate and ECF program participants.

▶ **SCHEDULE YOUR FREE ECF CONSULTATION**