

Yesterday, the FCC voted to adopt an [Order](#) extending E-Rate Program deadlines in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on schools and libraries across the country. The FCC stated that “to provide relief to E-Rate program participants affected by this unprecedented national pandemic, we temporarily waive and extend several E-Rate filing and service implementation deadlines.” Additionally, the FCC directs the Universal Service Administration Company (USAC) to provide all program participants an automatic 30-day extension to respond to information requests related to pending appeals, invoices, and more. The FCC stated that its goal is to help alleviate administrative burdens and to minimize the disruption caused by COVID-19 as schools and libraries transition to remote learning and working.

What is Included?

As directed by the Order, the FCC takes the following actions:

- Waives the service delivery deadline for **non-recurring services** for Funding Year (FY) 2019; extends the deadline an additional year from September 30, 2020 to September 30, 2021.
- Waives the service delivery deadline for **special construction** charges for all 2019 applicants, as well as all FY2018 applicants that already received a one-year extension; extends the deadline from June 30, 2020 to June 30, 2021.
- Waives rules for requests for **review or waiver of decisions by USAC** and provides all petitioners an automatic 60-day extension to submit requests;¹ applies to parties seeking review or waiver of an adverse USAC decision with an appeal deadline between March 11, 2020 and September 30, 2020.
- Provides 120-day extension of **invoice filing deadline** for funding requests with an invoice deadline between March 11, 2020 and October 28, 2020; during this time, directs USAC to provide an additional 30 days to applicants or providers who file an invoice extension request with an explanation of their inability to file invoices.
- Directs USAC to provide schools, libraries, and consortia with **Form 486** deadlines that fall between March 11, 2020 and September 30, 2020 an additional 120 to submit forms.
- Directs USAC to provide all E-Rate program participants an automatic 30-day extension to respond to **information requests** related to: pending USAC appeals, invoices, pending FCC Form 500 requests, Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) changes or funding request cancellation requests, and audits.

¹ Current FCC rules require those seeking review or waiver of a USAC decision to submit requests within 60 days. This action will increase that period to 120 days.

- Directs USAC to provide applicants with an additional 30-day extension for **PIA requests** for information requests issued between March 11, 2020 and May 22, 2020, regardless of the funding year the requests were made.

It is also important to note that the FCC had previously instructed USAC, on March 13, to extend the deadline for E-Rate applicants to submit their FY2020 FCC Form 471 applications by an additional 35 days, which are now due on Wednesday, April 29, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. EDT.

For more information about broadband policy developments, please contact Connected Nation at policy@connectednation.org, and [Subscribe via RSS](#) to Connected Nation's Policy Briefs.