AZBSN Jan10th meeting Mala's notes

E-rate: AZ

The Administrative Window for updating applicant profile information in USAC's EPC system will be closing on Monday, January 10, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. EST. Schools and libraries who have not yet updated their profile information are encouraged to do so as soon as possible. The applicant profile contains information about school and library sites, including enrollment and NSLP/CEP information (for schools) and facility square footage (for libraries.) View the EPC Administrative Window webinar on USAC's Webinars page for more information.
Application Window for 2022-3: USAC announced that the Funding Year 2022 E-rate Form 471 filing window will open on January 12, 2022 at 12:00 PM EST and close March 22, 2022 at 11:59 PM EDT. The application window will be open for 69 days.

Emergency Broadband Benefit: Total available 3.1 B. Arizona is still holding it's place 12th. 212,283 Households in Arizona have signed up for EBB.   California, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennslyvania, Puerto Rico and Texas.

Remaining appropriations available for disbursement approx. $2B.
It is now the **Affordable Connectivity Program with a budget. of $14.2 B** will build upon and extend the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) Program created in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of the Infra-structure Legislation of 2021. E**mergency Broadband Benefit** recipients fully enrolled as of December 31, 2021 will automatically continue to receive their current monthly benefit until March 1, 2022. You can learn more the program transition and steps you may need to take to stay enrolled after March 1st, by visiting fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit.
About the Affordable Connectivity Program
The Affordable Connectivity Program is an FCC benefit program that helps ensure that households can afford the broadband they need for work, school, healthcare and more.
The benefit provides a discount of up to $30 per month toward internet service for eligible households and up to $75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to $100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than $10 and less than $50 toward the purchase price.
The Affordable Connectivity Program is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per household. Eligible households must both apply for the program and contact a participating provider to select a service plan.

What's Changing?

⌐ The maximum monthly benefit will change from $50 per month to $30 per month for households **not** located on qualifying Tribal lands. The monthly benefit will remain at $75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands.

⌐ Households have new ways to qualify for the Affordable Connectivity Program such as: receiving WIC benefits or having an income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

⌐ Households that qualified for the Emergency Broadband Benefit due to a substantial loss of income due to job loss or furlough since February 29, 2020 or by meeting the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's COVID-19 program will need to requalify for the Affordable Connectivity Program.

Affordable Connectivity Program - Rules
Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a draft Report and Order which, if adopted, would finalize rules for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). Also accompanying the draft Report and Order is a draft Further of Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, consistent with the FCC's "permit-but disclose" rules may be made through Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 5 p.m. ET. Summaries of oral presentations made on January 10 and 11 must

be filed no later than 12 p.m. ET on January 12, 2022. For instructions how to file notice of ex parte presentations, please visit the FCC's website.

E-rate Central and SHLB commented:

1. ACP rules should explicitly include homeless centers as eligible for support under the multiple dwelling unit provisions. Minor rule changes on family eligibility may be required to account for the transient nature of homeless center residents.
2. Allow Schools and school districts to auto enroll every household in a school where every child is eligible for free school lunch or breakfast.
3. The FCC seems interested in minimum service standards for the devices. SHLB requested that the minimum service standards for connected devices under the program like a qwerty keyboard, adequate screen size to do research and video conferencing, to include: adequate memory, adequate battery life to get through a school day, capable of video conferencing and video editing, and not a device that can only be used on one provider's system. Also FCC rejects smart phones as the device again (which a good idea overall).