



FY2019 E-Rate State Matching Grant Technical Assistance Webinar



Illinois State Board of Education
November 28, 2018



Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- NOFO/RFP Overview
- Application Process
- Helpful Resources
- District's Next Steps
- Where to Direct Questions



Welcome / Introductions

- **Presenter**

- Erich Grauke
Principal Consultant, Innovation and
Secondary Transformation Division, ISBE

- **ISBE Key Team Members**

- Mary Reynolds
Executive Director, Innovation and
Secondary Transformation Division, ISBE

- **Other Key Members**

- Mindy Fiscus
Digital Access Coordinator
Learning Technology Center of Illinois

- Chris Wherley
Network & Technology Services Coordinator
Learning Technology Center of Illinois

- Brad Weiger
Consulting Manager
Education SuperHighway



Notice Of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)/ Request for Proposal (RFP) Overview

- NOFO/RFP Information found at <https://www.isbe.net/broadband> under the E-Rate State Matching Grant Tab
- NOFO/RFP Released on Tuesday, Oct. 30, 2018
- Proposals due to ISBE Office by 4:00 p.m on Friday, January 25, 2019



NOFO/RFP Overview (cont.)

- ISBE received up to \$16.3 million in FY2019 to help districts cover the non-discounted portion of special construction costs.
- State Matching Provision Information
<https://www.usac.org/sl/applicants/beforeyoubegin/state-matching-provision.aspx>



Eligible Applicants

- **Any Illinois Public School District** who:
 - Completes the E-Rate Application Cycle
 - Districts who file a 470 indicating fiber internet is desired
 - Districts who check “state match / tribal funding” Indicator on Form 471
 - Priority is given to districts without scalable fiber connectivity
 - Applications for districts wishing to improve WAN connections or reducing costs will also be considered
 - E-Rate approval is required



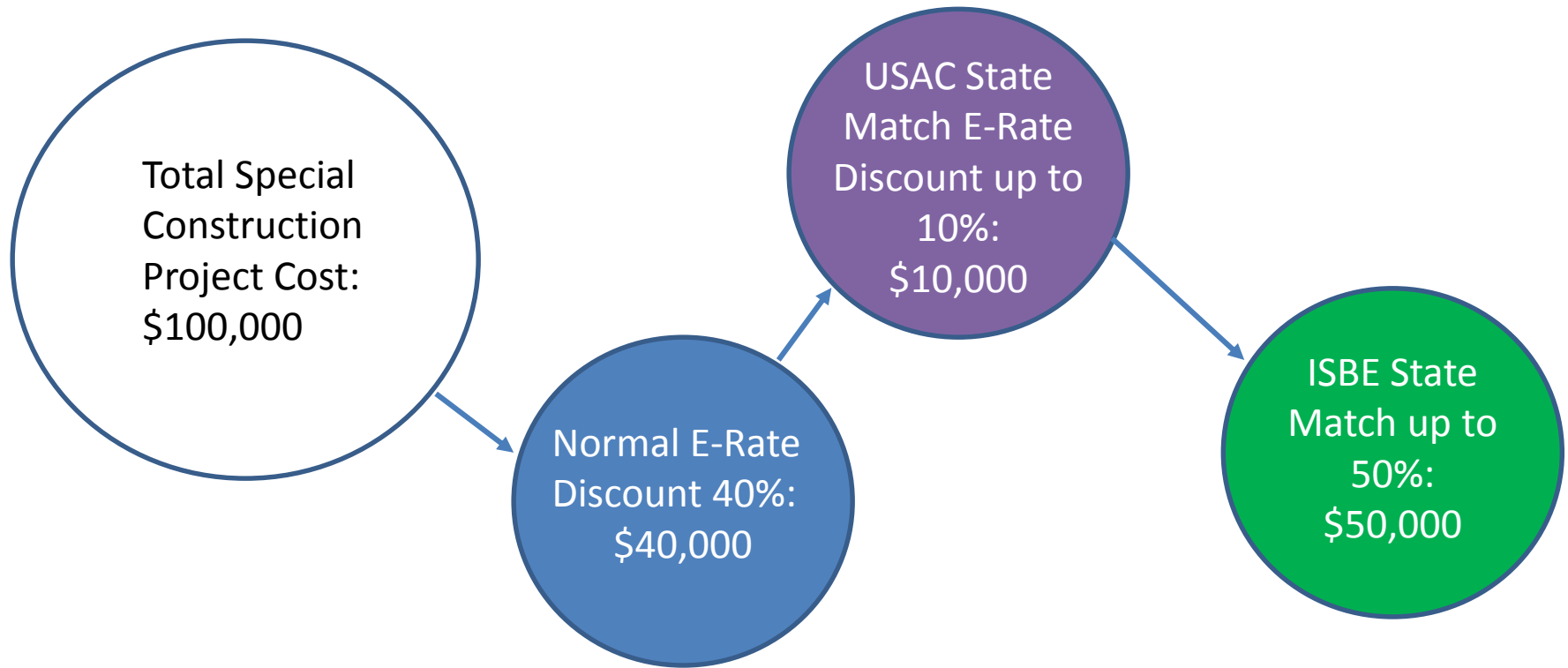
E-Rate Special Construction

- Special Construction Charges are:
 - Upfront, non-recurring costs of deploying new fiber or upgraded facilities to E-Rate eligible entities
 - Consisting of 3 components:
 - Construction of network facilities
 - Design and engineering
 - Project Management
- Special Construction Charges **DO NOT INCLUDE:**
 - Charges for equipment to make the service functional
- More information at:
<https://www.usac.org/sl/applicants/beforeyoubegin/fiber.aspx>



How the State Match Works

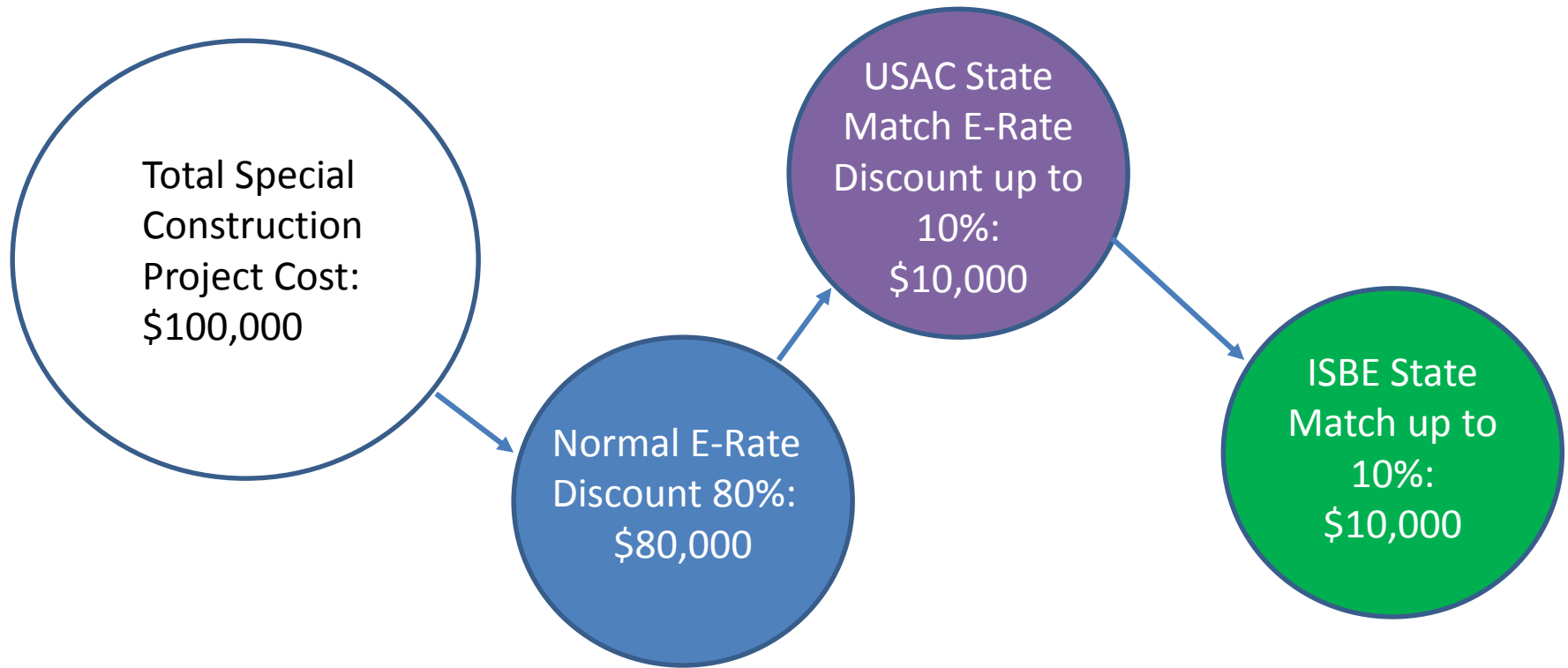
- ABC School District, with a 40% Category 1 Discount Rate applies for State Match Grant:





How the State Match Works

- XYZ School District, with an 80% Category 1 Discount Rate applies for State Match Grant:





The Application Process

- Applicants file FCC Form 470 indicating fiber
 - Must wait a **minimum** of 28 days before selecting vendor per USAC rules
 - RFP is recommended
 - Review bids and conduct bid evaluations
 - Select & name a service provider
 - Must follow all USAC rules regarding Form 470 competitive bid process
 - See <https://www.usac.org/sl/applicants/beforeyoubegin/fiber.aspx> for more information on fiber options eligible for E-Rate support



The Application Process

- Details are IMPORTANT!
 - You must have a plan
 - You must follow all USAC rules regarding competitive bid evaluations
 - You must follow 28 day minimum for Form 470
 - You must meet ISBE state match application deadline
 - 4 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 25, 2019
 - You must file a Form 471 by USAC deadline (sometime in March 2019) and select the state match box
 - You must be able to answer, or get the answers to detailed questions in PIA review.
 - You must obtain USAC approval before state match funds will be released.



The Application Process

- Applicants file application to ISBE NOFO/RFP
 - Include form 470, evaluation rubric of vendors, and the name of your selected vendor along with their proposal
 - Upon approval from USAC, state will match the non-discounted portion of project subject to funding availability



The Application Process

- Successful awardees will receive a letter from ISBE stating that the proposal passed the review phase and Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) requirements.
- Award letter is submitted to EPC as part of the district's FCC Form 471 application.



Application Process

- Attachment 1 is the Uniform Grant Application
 - Be sure to have all necessary signatures when submitting!



Application Process

- Attachment 1 – Question 45
 - **Amount Requested from the State** is the amount you are requesting for the state match
 - **Applicant Contribution** is the remaining monies going into the project. *Local Contribution, Other Sources of Funding, or Program Income* provide the detail for and should total the Applicant Contribution Line.
 - **Total Amount** is the total of the Amount Requested from State and Applicant Contribution Lines combined.

45.	Estimated Funding <i>(Include all that apply)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Amount Requested from the State: \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant Contribution (e.g., in kind, matching): \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Local Contribution: \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other Source of Contribution: \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Program Income: \$ _____ <div style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> Total Amount: \$ _____</div>
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Attachment 1 – Question 45 Example #1

- ABC District is requesting a match for a \$100,000 fiber special construction project. Their C1 Discount rate is 50%.
- USAC C1 Discount of 50% - \$50000
- USAC Additional Discount for State/Tribal Match (1:1 to state match, up to 10%) - \$10000
- Remaining \$40000, or 40% of the original project amount, will be covered by state match, subject to funding availability and approvals

45.	Estimated Funding <i>(Include all that apply)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amount Requested from the State: \$ <u>40000</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant Contribution (e.g., in kind, matching): \$ <u>60000</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Local Contribution: \$ _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Source of Contribution: \$ <u>60000</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Program Income: \$ _____ <div style="text-align: right;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Total Amount: \$ <u>100000</u></div>
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Attachment 1 – Question 45 Example #2

- Acme School District has a \$100,000 special construction fiber project and has a 20% Discount Rate
- USAC C1 Discount Rate of 20% - \$20000
- USAC State Match of 10% - \$10000
- Remaining \$70000, or 70% of the original project amount will be covered by the state match, subject to funding availability and approvals
- 20% USAC C1 Discount + 10% USAC Match + 70% State Match = 100% of special construction costs

45.	Estimated Funding <i>(Include all that apply)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amount Requested from the State: \$ <u>70000</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant Contribution (e.g., in kind, matching): \$ <u>30000</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Local Contribution: \$ _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Source of Contribution: \$ <u>30000</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Program Income: \$ _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Total Amount: \$ <u>100000</u>
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Application Process

- Attachment 2 – Current Technology Status
 - Describe current school bandwidth
 - Describe current devices that access current bandwidth



Application Process

- Attachment 3 – Determining need
 - Describe current technology program
 - Explain the planning used to determine need and the project design
 - Identification of stakeholders and communication with them during project planning
 - Funding limitations facing the district
 - Need for the special construction to meet future district plans
 - Schools chosen to participate and indicate their need



Application Process

- Attachment 4 – Proposed Project/Program
 - See pages 5 and 6 of RFP document for items to include.
 - If not already indicated on the Form 470, be sure to include details of the special construction project, including how outside contractors were chosen.
- Attachment 5 – Timeline
 - Complete a timeline of activities to meet goals included in attachment 4. Make sure to have start and end dates and list person(s) responsible.



Application Process

- Attachment 6 – Evaluation Design
 - How will plan be evaluated for effectiveness?
 - What data will be collected and how will it be used?
- Attachment 7 – Budget
 - Must submit on form included in application packet & must be signed by superintendent



Application Process

- Attachment 8 and 9 – Certifications and Assurances
 - Signed copies of the following:
 - Program-Specific terms of the Grant
 - Grant Application Certifications and Assurances
 - Each entity in a joint application is required to submit these components



Helpful Resources

- 2019 Round Three Application and attachment can be found on ISBE's website: <https://www.isbe.net/broadband> under the drop-down "E-Rate State Matching Grant."
- School districts can contact [Education SuperHighway](#) for free support and consultation and for fiber project RFP Templates
- The [Learning Technology Centers of Illinois](#) provide free workshops and assistance to districts
 - Mindy Fiscus is currently conducting 470 workshops throughout the state
 - Chris Wherley can assist with the more technical aspects of fiber networking
 - www.ltcillinois.org/access
- Email questions to broadband@isbe.net
- A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document will be added to the website and updated based on feedback and questions



Helpful Resources

Education SuperHighway (ESH)

- Awareness
- Project Planning
- Service Provider Connections
- Templates for RFP
 - <https://www.educationsuperhighway.org/resources/>
- Consensus Support
- Brad Weiger and Team
- brad.weiger@educationsuperhighway.org

Learning Technology Center (LTC)

- Grant Writing Support
- E-Rate Application Support
 - Forms 470 & 471
- Awareness
- General Q&A
- Connections with ESH and ISBE
- www.ltcillinois.org/access
- Mindy Fiscus & Chris Wherley:
 - mfiscus@ltcillinois.org
 - cwherley@ltcillinois.org



District Next Steps

- Determine if an E-Rate Special Construction Project is needed in your district
- File FCC 470
 - Recommend that this be done by Friday, December 21 (**must** do so no later than Dec. 28!)
 - Remember the 28-day Rule for Form 470!!
- Evaluate bids received and select one
- Fill out grant application, include your 470, bid evaluation method, and selected vendor to ISBE by Friday, Jan. 25 at 4pm.



Applications due to ISBE
by 4 p.m. on
Friday, Jan 25, 2019



Where to Direct Questions

- A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document will be added to the Broadband website <https://www.isbe.net/broadband>
- All questions should be submitted via email to broadband@isbe.net. Questions will be answered in the FAQ document.
- Questions cannot be answered by phone.



Thanks for Attending the Webinar!