

E-Rate State Matching Grant Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: 1/8/2020

1. When is the application due?

The E-Rate State Matching Grant application is due by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 31, 2020.

2. How do I submit the application?

Proposals can be submitted electronically through the ISBE Attachment Manager, mailed, or hand-delivered no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, January 31, 2020. Directions for each submission method can be found in the [State Matching Grant RFP](#).

3. How is it possible to fill in the financial amounts when the vendor has not been chosen to determine the appropriate funds needed?

Districts will need to file an FCC Form 470 and RFP and wait the required 28 days per USAC rules. Once the 28 day period has elapsed districts can evaluate the proposals received and choose the most cost effective option. The last day to file 470 and meet USAC's 28 day window is Friday, January 3.

Those districts that are members of the DoIT Consortium will be notified by DoIT as to the vendor and costs for their district. Districts that are part of the Consortium and also filed a 470 and RFP for these services will be able to choose between their own proposals and the Consortium proposal.

4. Will be there a FAQ posted with these questions and answers?

Yes. As new questions are asked, we will update this document with those questions and answers. Send questions to broadband@isbe.net

5. Is there someone who can help districts fill out the E-Rate State Matching Grant application paperwork?

Yes. Please contact Mindy Fiscus, Digital Access Coordinator at the [Learning Technology Center of Illinois](#).

Contact details:

Email: mfiscus@lctillinois.gov

Telephone: 618-544-2719

6. Is an RFP required when I file my Form 470?

An RFP is required if you are bidding any of the following Category 1 services:

- Leased Dark Fiber with or without special construction
- Self-provisioned networks
- Network equipment

- Maintenance & operations

If you are only seeking leased lit fiber and the Form 470 narrative box is not enough to adequately describe your needs, then it is advisable to write an RFP even if it is not required.

E-rate support is available from Mindy Fiscus and the [Learning Technology Center of Illinois](#). If you need additional support, the non-profit organization EducationSuperHighway offers free consulting support and RFP templates, which can be found here: [RFP Templates and Guidance](#).

Contact details:

Email: illinois@educationsuperhighway.org

Call sign-up: <https://calendly.com/illinois-team/district-call>

7. What if we are waiting for DoIT? We have to pick a vendor for this grant but we don't want to lock a vendor in if we are going to receive services from DoIT. What do you recommend?

DoIT will inform Consortium Members the results of their 470 procurement. You are also free to file your own 470 and RFP and compare the results of that with the DoIT proposal, should you wish.

8. If we already received responses to our 470, and they bundled all construction costs into monthly recurring charge (MRC), can we ask them to separate out construction costs?

Yes. Construction costs related to the special construction fiber build should be bundled together as the state matching program on both the state and federal (USAC) levels are for the one-time costs of construction and do not cover monthly recurring costs. Construction costs that are spread out into monthly recurring fees may not be covered by the matching program.

9. Will this powerpoint be shared with us?

Yes at www.isbe.net/broadband and then clicking on the E-Rate State Match Grant tab.

10. Are non-public schools serving public school students eligible for this grant?

No. Only public school districts are eligible to apply for the state match grant.

11. Can walkthroughs happen inside of that 28 day window?

Yes.

12. I have my own RFP, am I safer to use the EducationSuperHighway version to make sure that it is not rejected? There isn't a ton of time if the 470 is rejected.

You will want to ensure that your RFP and your FCC form 470 clearly describes the services you are requesting.

13. Do we need to meet any bandwidth requirements?

It is expected that awardees will meet or exceed the FCC goal of at least 1 Gbps per 1,000 students/staff for internet access.

14. Do I need to fill out all 5 pages on the application attachments?

No, but please refer to the reporting requirements, review process, and selection criteria in the [State Matching Grant RFP](#) to make sure you are answering all questions entirely.