

FY 2018 E-rate State Matching Grant
Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)/Request for Proposal (RFP)
Frequently Asked Questions

March 23, 2017

1. What fiscal year does this grant cover?

As stated on page 2 of the [NOFO/RFP](#), contingent upon state appropriation, the project period will begin no earlier than July 1, 2017, and will extend until June 30, 2018. There will be no extensions or renewals of the grant.

2. We have a lit fiber project in progress where we received a FCDL in early 2017 and have a completion date of 6-30-2017. Will this grant cover FY 2017 expenditures?

No. This grant will not cover expenditures prior to July 1, 2017.

3. Will this be available next year?

Dependent upon the Federal E-rate Program, and contingent upon state appropriation, the program may be available again next year.

4. When is the proposal due?

As stated on page 2 of the [NOFO/RFP](#), proposals are due no later than 3 p.m. on March 31, 2017.

5. How does the March 31, 2017, date fit with the May 11, 2017, FCC Form 471 filing deadline?

As stated on page 6 of the [NOFO/RFP](#), successful districts will receive an award letter from ISBE stating they have been selected for the matching grant, subject to appropriation. The district will need to submit this letter along with the FCC Form 471 into the EPC Portal. Districts should remember to click the button for state match in the FCC Form 471.

6. If a districts releases a 470 today and needs to wait the 28 days for bidding, would it miss the opportunity to apply for the state match grant for FY 2018? What if my 470 due date is after 3-31?

The FCC Form 470 will be judged as part of the application. The latest the FCC Form 470 could be submitted and still be eligible for the grant was March 3, 2017.

7. How are submissions accepted?

As stated on page 2 of the [NOFO/RFP](#), proposals may be submitted by mail to Illinois State Board of Education, Attn: Jamey Baiter, Principal Consultant, 100 North First Street (C-215), Springfield, IL 62777.

8. What exactly do districts need to submit by March 31, 2017?

As noted on pages 7 and 8 of the [NOFO/RFP](#), districts will submit the Uniform Grant Agreement (Attachment 1); the Current Technology Status (Attachment 2); the Proposal Narrative (Attachments 3 and 4); the district's FCC Form 470 application along with any RFPs, scoring rubrics, and explanation of why vendors were selected; the Proposed Project Timeline (Attachment 5); the Evaluation Design (Attachment 6); the Budget Summary and Payment Schedule (Attachment 7); the Budget Breakdown (Attachment 7A); and the Certifications and Assurances (Attachments 8 and 9).

Districts should read pages 7 and 8 to ensure they comply with the instructions provided.

9. If the full \$5 million is not used in first round of applications, will there be a second submission deadline to accept more applications?

No. Due to the fact that the FCC Form 471 is due on May 11, 2017, another round of applications cannot be processed for FY 2018.

10. Can this be used for microwave costs, monthly lease costs, internal wiring, or for wiring classrooms?

No. As stated on page 2 of the [NOFO/RFP](#), this program only covers the non-discounted Category 1 (C1) E-rate Special Construction Costs. Page 3 of the NOFO/RFP states that the FCC defines special construction projects as projects that deploy new fiber or upgraded facilities to E-rate Program eligible locations. Special construction charges are the upfront, non-recurring costs of such installations of upgrades and consist of three components: (1) construction of network facilities; (2) design and engineering; and (3) project management.

E-rate Category 2 (C2) costs are not covered by this NOFO/RFP.

11. When will the state know if appropriations are available for this program?

As stated on page 2 of the [NOFO/RFP](#), the state match is contingent upon state appropriation by the Illinois General Assembly and Governor.

12. We have a bid of \$24,000 to bring fiber into the building. Our E-rate C1 applications will cover 50 percent of that special construction cost. Can we request the remaining full \$12,000 from the state?

*As stated on page 5 of the NOFO/RFP, because your district has a discount rate of 50 percent you can request **up to** 40 percent of the costs for the special construction project from the state. The remaining 10 percent should be requested from USAC by clicking on the state match button on the FCC Form 471.*