

March 9, 2023 ACTEM Business Meeting

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E-Rate Updates

1. FY2023 FCC Form 470

The deadline for filing an FY2023 Form 470 was February 28, 2023.

2. FY2023 FCC Form 471

The FY2023 Form 471 application filing window will close on March 28, 2023 at 11:59 PM EDT.

If you filed a new Form 470 this year:

- You cannot file the Form 471 before the 28-day waiting period is completed
- The Contract Award Date that you report must be on or after the Allowable Contract Date but before the date you certify the Form 471

Before you get into the form itself, you will need to complete the Contracts Module within your EPC profile:

- *If you are signing a new contract for FY2023:* You must add a record for it in the Contracts Module before you can reference the contract ID in your form (it is easier if you do this before beginning your form)
- *If you have an existing multi-year contract in place for which you created a contract record in EPC and the contract extends through FY2023:* You do not need to add another record. Simply refer to the same contract ID in your FY2023 form.
- *If you have an existing multi-year contract in place for which you created a contract record in EPC and the contract extends through FY2023 and it was amended (for example if you exercised a voluntary extension):* The same guidance applies. Simply refer to the same contract ID in your FY2023 form. Be prepared to provide the amendment to your PIA reviewer.

Guides for Form 471 activities are available at the Maine E-Rate Resources website:
go to erate.networkmaine.net and click on the link for EPC Training Guides

PIA reviews are already in progress so be on the lookout for those and respond accordingly.

Funding Commitment Decision Letters are likely to be issued weekly beginning soon after the filing window closes.

3. FCC Form 486

After you go through PIA review and receive an FCDL, you will need to file a Form 486 to indicate the start of services. Letters will be sent within EPC.

The Form 486 must be certified no later than 120 days after the service start date or 120 days after the date of the FCDL, whichever is later.

4. FCC Form 498 UEI / SAM.gov Changes

USAC recently announced that it will be updating the Form 498 (this is the form that provides baking information for BEAR payments) to include fields for the SAM.gov UEI.

If you were an Emergency Connectivity Fund applicant, your organization should already have been registered in SAM.gov and obtained a UEI. However, your SAM.gov registration must be renewed annually, so make sure that your registration is active.

If you did not participate in the ECF program AND you receive E-Rate BEAR payments rather than using the SPI method), you will need to obtain a UEI by sometime in the second quarter of 2023. I recommend that if you begin working soon to get registered in SAM.gov as this can be quite the lengthy and maddening process.