E-rate at a Glance

Schools and Libraries Program

What is E-rate?

The Schools and Libraries Program of the Universal Service Fund, commonly known as "E-rate," is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) under the direction of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and provides discounts to assist schools and libraries to obtain affordable telecommunications and Internet access.

The Schools and Libraries Program supports broadband connectivity to the building and broadband services within the building. Funding is requested under two categories of service: Category One (telecommunications and Internet access) and Category Two (internal connections, Wi-Fi and basic maintenance). Discounts for support depend on the level of poverty and the urban/rural status of the population served. Discounts range from 20% to 90% on eligible services for schools, districts, libraries or consortium applicants.

For more information or questions, contact the State E-rate Coordinator:

Chris Schneider | schneider@more.net | 573-882-8429

Program Forms

470 – Required for any desired services to open a competitive bid process. Can be filed any time when services are sought.
471 – Must be filed annually within published window period. Application for funding on services bid.
486 – Certifications form must be filed the later of 120 days after service start date or the FCDL date.
472 – For reimbursement of services paid if not discounted on vendor invoice.
500 – Release unused C2 funds to clear entity C2 budget
479 – Consortium CIPA requirement due by June 30.

Application Process

by MONTH
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JUL-FEB – 470 Bid for services

AUG – 472 Reimbursement

OCT – 486 Typical last date 500 Release funds

OCT-JAN – EPC Admin changes

JAN-MAR – 471 Window

APR-SEP – PIA review

JUN – Consortium 479 due

by FORM
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470 – Request services
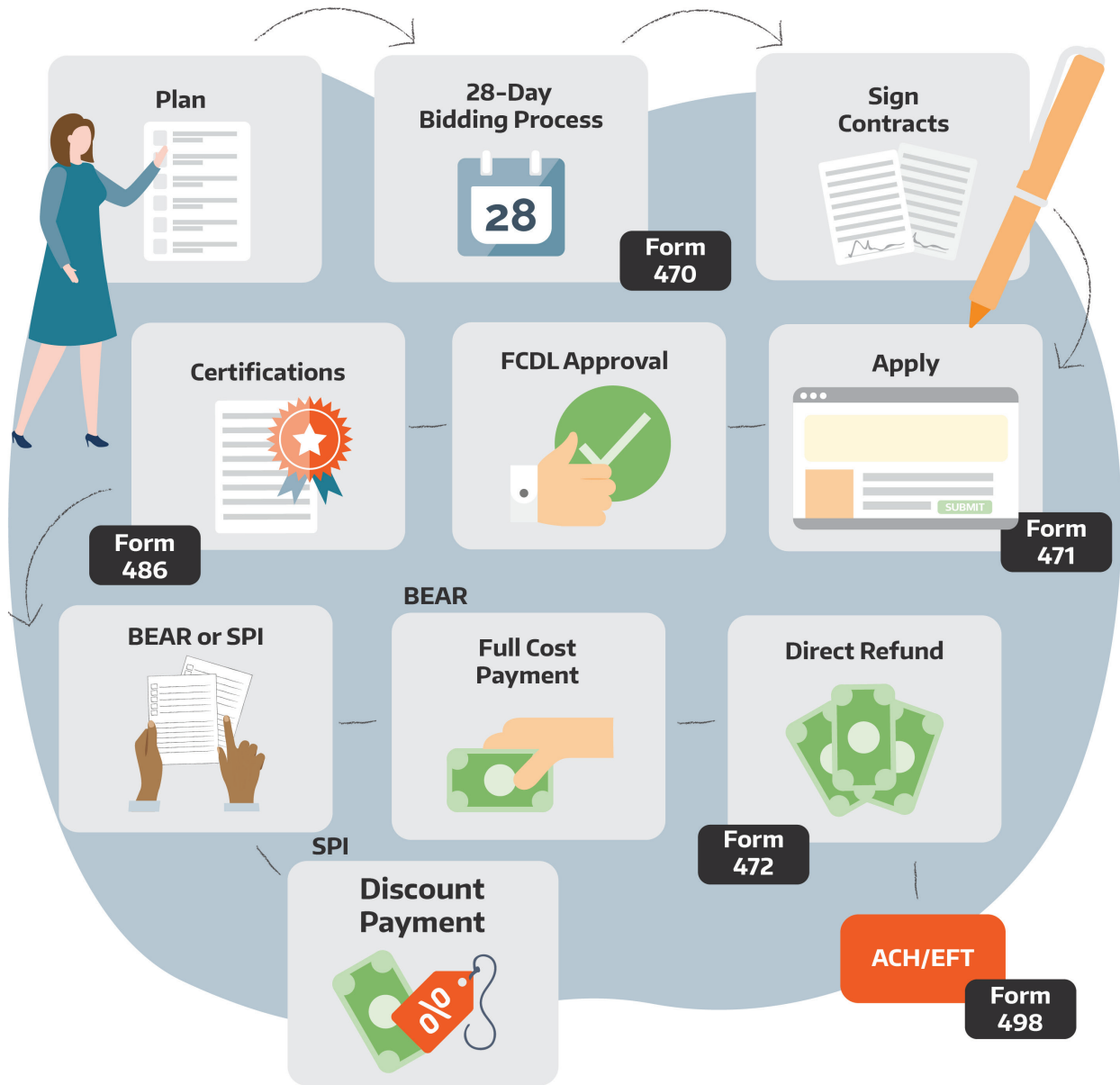
471 – Request funding for services chosen

486 – Notify services began and certify CIPA compliance

472 – Request reimbursement on charges paid in full

500 – Release unused C2 funds

479 – Consortium ONLY, CIPA compliance

Process Flow Chart

Plan

28–Day Bidding Process

28

Form 470

Sign Contracts

Certifications

Form 486

FCDL Approval

Apply

SUBMIT

Form 471

BEAR

BEAR or SPI

Full Cost Payment

Direct Refund

Form 472

SPI

Discount Payment

%

ACH/EFT

Form 498

Program Resources

- www.usac.org/e-rate
  Main E-rate website with access to the EPC portal where all forms must be filed. Also has search tools and valuable program information.
- https://www.usac.org/e-rate/applicant-process/before-you-begin/
  Best place to start when new to E-rate.
- Phone 888-203-8100
  USAC customer service center for Schools and Libraries Program.
- https://www.more.net/services/connectivity/e-rate/support-material
  MOREnet E-rate Assistance webpage with current and previously recorded webinars on E-rate topics.