

Media Contact:

Anne Veigle
anne.veigle@fcc.gov

For Immediate Release

FCC PROPOSES UPDATE TO E-RATE RULES TO PROMOTE PARTICIPATION OF TRIBAL LIBRARIES

WASHINGTON, September 30, 2021—The Federal Communications Commission today proposed revisions to the definition of library in the E-Rate program rules to clarify that Tribal libraries are eligible to participate in the program. Some Tribal libraries have been unable to receive support from the program, which provides discounts on broadband services to schools and libraries, because they did not meet the outdated definition of a library in the Commission’s rules. Today’s Notice of Proposed Rulemaking would address this issue and seeks comment on whether the Commission should consider any other measures to ensure eligible Tribal entities have access to the E-Rate program.

The E-Rate program was established in 1996 as a universal service support mechanism to ensure that schools and libraries can obtain affordable broadband service. Discounts for support depend on the level of poverty and whether the school or library is in an urban or rural area. The discounts range from 20 percent to 90 percent of the costs of eligible services. The E-Rate program is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company under the direction of the FCC.

Action by the Commission September 30, 2021 by Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 21-107). Acting Chairwoman Rosenworcel, Commissioners Carr, Starks, and Simington approving. Acting Chairwoman Rosenworcel, Commissioners Carr and Starks issuing separate statements.

CC Docket No. 02-6

###

Media Relations: (202) 418-0500 / ASL: (844) 432-2275 / Twitter: @FCC / www.fcc.gov

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).