FCC Form 484 Part 1 Overview

August 20, 2024

Universal Service
Administrative Co.

Disclaimer

To accommodate all attendees, real-time closed captions will be used during this presentation. We apologize in advance for any transcription errors or distractions. Thank you for your support.

Housekeeping

- Audio is available through your computer's speakers

- The audience will remain on mute

- Enter questions at any time using the **Questions** box

- If your audio or slides freeze, restart the webinar

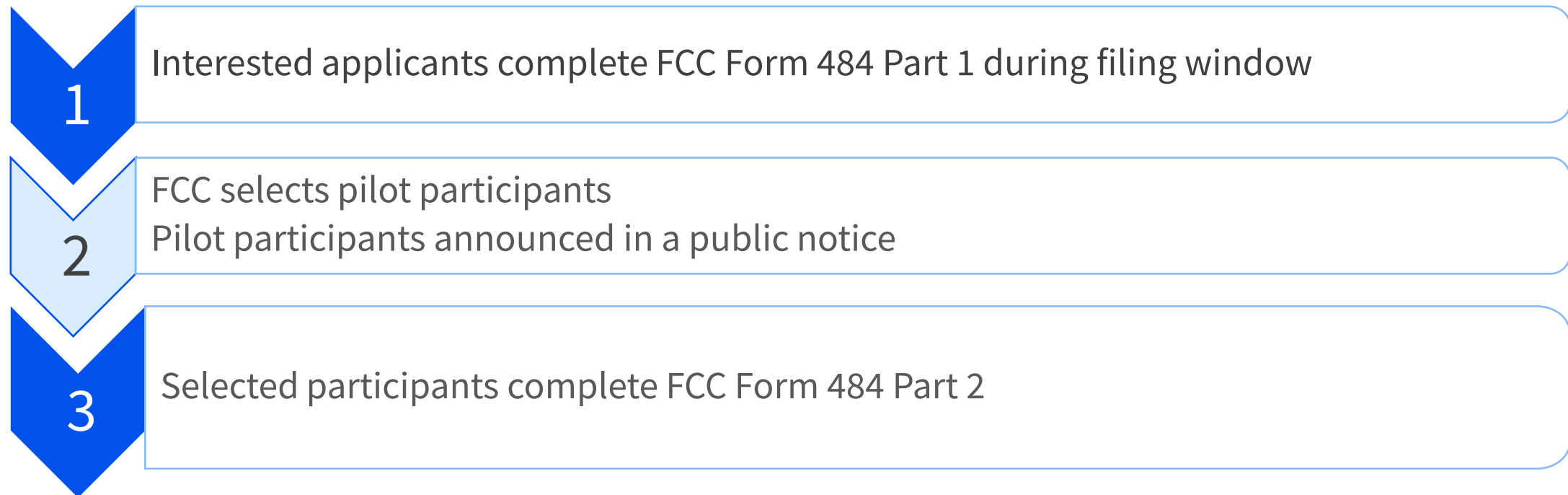- A copy of the slide deck is in the **Handouts** section of the webinar panel

Schools & Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program Overview

Pilot Program Overview

- The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) established the three-year **Schools & Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program** to provide up to $200 million in Universal Service Fund (USF) support to participating eligible schools, libraries, and consortia of schools and libraries to defray the costs of eligible cybersecurity services and equipment.

- The Pilot Program will evaluate the effectiveness of using USF funding to support cybersecurity services and equipment to protect school and library broadband networks and data.

Pilot Program Application Process

1 Interested applicants complete FCC Form 484 Part 1 during filing window

2 FCC selects pilot participants
Pilot participants announced in a public notice

3 Selected participants complete FCC Form 484 Part 2

Pilot Program Participant Selection

- To facilitate the inclusion of a diverse set of Pilot Program projects and to target Pilot Program funds to the populations most in need of cybersecurity support, the FCC will award support to a combination of large and small and urban and rural schools, libraries, and consortia, with an emphasis on funding proposed Pilot projects that include low-income and Tribal applicants.

FCC Form 484 Part 1

FCC Form 484 Part 1

- When the application window opens, school, library and consortia applicants will find the FCC Form 484 Part 1 in their E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC) account

- Pilot Program forms can be found in the waffle in the top right-hand corner of the welcome screen in EPC (same place you find invoicing)

- Consultants will see the Pilot Program in their EPC accounts, but will not have access until granted by an applicant

CBR Dashboard

Good Morning, Welcome to the Cybersecurity Pilot Program!
Name

| My Organization(s) | My Forms and Requests | My Pending Tasks | My Pending Inquiries |

🕐 FCC Form 484 Part 1 Filing Window closes in **9** days **13** hours **15** mins

🔍 Search SL Applicant Entities   SEARCH   ▼ ▾

BEN	BEN Name	City	State	Entity Type	Action
000000	Consortium name	CITY		Consortium	⚡ FILE MY FCC FORM 484 PART 1

FCC Form 484 Part 1

- All account information will be copied over from the user's EPC administrative profile, including a list of associated consultants, discount rates, consortia members, and associated schools or libraries

- Any necessary administrative changes can be made in EPC when the administrative period opens **and the customer service center will be available to assist as needed**

- The FCC Form 484 Part 1 will not be visible to users until the application window opens

FCC Form 484 Part 1

- Applicants will use the FCC Form 484 Part 1 to provide a general level of cybersecurity information and answer questions about their proposed Pilot projects, including the eligible equipment and services they intend to seek funding for if selected for the Pilot Program – please be as **thorough** and **specific** as possible

- Applicants' initial equipment and services selections and cost estimates are preliminary; applicants may modify these selections if selected for the Pilot Program

FCC Form 484 Part 1: Basic Information

FCC Form 484 Part 1: Basic Information

- Account administrators review their school, library, or consortia's basic information that's been pulled from the EPC administrative profile

- If users need to make changes to any of the basic information, they should contact the USAC Customer Service Center (CSC)

- Users will also designate a main contact person to answer questions about the form – themselves or someone else – and provide contact information

FCC Form 484 Part 1: Designating Applicants

FCC Form 484 Part 1: Designating Applicants

- Schools and libraries can select any associated eligible entities (e.g., associated schools within a district or branches within a library system) to include in their Pilot application

FCC Form 484 Part 1: Designating Applicants – Consortia

- Consortia will indicate whether every member of their consortium will be included in the Pilot Program application

- If some members of the consortium will not be included in the Pilot Program application, the consortium lead can indicate that in the **Basic Information** section of the application

Questions?

FCC Form 484 Part 1: Proposed Plan

FCC Form 484 Part 1: Proposed Plan

- Applicants will be asked to "provide a summary of the proposed project for which you/your consortium will request Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program support if selected as a Pilot participant including, but not limited to, the cybersecurity issues and challenges you/your consortium plan(s) to prevent or address with Pilot Program funding, your proposed cybersecurity action plan, and the sites that will be included as part of your proposed Pilot project"

  - The form allows an open text response of 5,000 characters; applicants can upload any additional information that does not fit in this space

  - For example, applicants may provide information about things like their goals and objectives for the proposed plan, how they plan to use Pilot Program funding, and the cybersecurity risks the proposed Pilot project will prevent or address.

FCC Form 484 Part 1: Proposed Plan (Continued)

- Applicants will also be asked to identify the services and equipment they propose purchasing with Pilot Program funding using the Pilot [Eligible Service List](#):

  - Advanced/Next-Generation Firewalls or similar

  - Endpoint Protection or similar

  - Identity Protection and Authentication or similar

  - Monitoring, Detection and Response or similar

- Applicants may select multiple service and equipment options

- These selections are preliminary; applicants may modify these selections if selected for the Pilot Program

FCC Form 484 Part 1: Proposed Plan (Continued)

- Applicants will "describe how the proposed Pilot project would use Pilot funding to protect the broadband network(s) and data of you/your consortium members and address your cybersecurity concerns, including, but not limited to, a discussion of the types of equipment and services you/your consortium plan(s) to purchase and how you/your consortium plan(s) to use the equipment and services to protect your broadband network(s) and data and manage and address cybersecurity risks"

  - Please include as much specificity as possible

  - Similar to the project summary question, the form allows an open text response of up to 5,000 characters; applicants can upload additional information/supporting documents as necessary

FCC Form 484 Part 1: Proposed Plan (Continued)

- Applicants will list the cybersecurity risks that their proposed plan will address by selecting one or more from a list of dropdown multi-select options:
  - Malware or similar
  - Viruses or similar
  - Spam or similar
  - Ransomware or similar
  - Distributed Denial-of-Service attacks or similar
  - Insider/Privilege Misuse or similar
  - Email and Web Security Risks (e.g., phishing, password spraying, credential stuffing, etc.) or similar
  - Cloud Application Threats or similar
  - Network Threats, Data Compromise and/or Loss or similar
  - None of the Above
- Any supporting documentation about these risks can be uploaded into EPC

FCC Form 484 Part 1: Proposed Plan (Continued)

- Applicants will select the <u>primary</u> area of focus for their proposed plan from the following options:
  - Create initial cybersecurity framework
  - Augment existing cybersecurity framework
  - Protect network(s) and data
  - Address past cybersecurity incident(s)/issue(s)
  - Address current cybersecurity incident(s)/issue(s)

FCC Form 484 Part 1: Proposed Plan (Continued)

- Applicants will be asked to identify the goals and objectives of their proposed plan from a list of dropdown multi-select options:
  - Develop/implement/improve security and protection of E-Rate-funded broadband network(s)
  - Develop/implement/improve network and data monitoring
  - Develop/implement/improve vulnerability scanning and patch management
  - Develop/implement/improve protective controls
  - Develop/implement/improve network segmentation
  - Develop/implement/improve user access control
  - Develop/implement/improve password management policies
  - Develop/implement/improve IT security governance
  - Obtain/supplement the cost of third-party cybersecurity management assistance

FCC Form 484 Part 1: Project Details

FCC Form 484 Part 1: Project Details

- Applicants will respond to yes/no questions including:
  - Have you/any of your consortium members implemented recommended best practices from one or more cybersecurity organizations? (e.g., CISA, Education Department, NIST)
  - Do you/Does your consortium plan to implement recommended best practices from any cybersecurity organizations as part of your proposed Pilot project? (e.g., CISA, Education Department, NIST)
  - Will your/your consortium's proposed Pilot project be self-sustaining (i.e., able to be carried out without Pilot funding) once the Pilot Program ends?

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FCC Form 484 Part 1: Project Details (Continued)

- Applicants will use the Pilot Program [Eligible Services List](#) to preliminarily identify the specific cybersecurity equipment and services they plan to request and seek reimbursement for if selected to participate

  - The FCC will use this information to assist with the selection of a diverse pool of participants for the Pilot, but applicants will be able to modify the equipment and services if selected to participate in the Pilot Program

Questions?

Form 484 Part 1: Applicant Cybersecurity Information

FCC Form 484 Part 1: Experience and Expertise/Funding

- Applicants will answer a series of yes/no questions regarding their/their consortium's cybersecurity expertise and experience and sources of funding:

  - Do you/Does any member of your consortium have previous experience implementing cybersecurity protections/measures?

  - Do you/Does any member of your consortium currently receive, or expect to receive, cybersecurity funding from any other federal, state, local, Tribal, or other cybersecurity program or source?

FCC Form 484 Part 1: Cybersecurity Incidents and Best Practices

- Applicants will answer a series of yes/no questions regarding their/their consortium's cybersecurity incidents and use of cybersecurity best practices:
  - Have you/Has any member of your consortium experienced a cybersecurity incident (e.g., a cybersecurity threat or attack) in the last year?
  - Have you/Has any member of your consortium implemented, or begun implementing, any of the U.S. Department of Education (Education Department) or Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) K-12 cybersecurity recommendations?

FCC Form 484 Part 1: Cybersecurity Collaboration/Information Sharing, Staffing, and Free or Low-cost Resources

- Applicants will answer a series of yes/no questions regarding their/their consortium's participation in cybersecurity collaboration or information sharing groups, cybersecurity staffing, and any plans to utilize free or low-cost cybersecurity resources:

  - Are you/any members of your consortium currently a member(s) of any cybersecurity collaboration or information-sharing groups?

  - Do you/any of your consortium members currently have a designated cybersecurity officer(s) or other senior-level staff member(s) who will serve as the designated cybersecurity officer(s) if you are selected as a Pilot participant?

  - Do you/any of your consortium members currently utilize, or plan to utilize, any of the free or low-cost cybersecurity resources recommended by the Education Department or CISA?

FCC Form 484 Part 1: Estimated Costs and Metrics

FCC Form 484 Part 1: Estimated Costs (Continued)

- The Pilot Program requires schools, libraries, and consortia to cover the non-discounted portion of their eligible cybersecurity services and equipment. Applicants will answer yes/no questions about their plan to cover non-discounted costs:

  - Do you/Does your consortium have access to funding to cover the cost of any non-cybersecurity equipment and services necessary to support the cybersecurity equipment and services you/your consortium plan(s) to request as part of your proposed Pilot project?

  - As part of your/your consortium's proposed Pilot project, do you plan to require your selected service provider(s) to utilize any free or low-cost Education Department, CISA, or other tools and/or resources?

FCC Form 484 Part 1: Estimated Costs (Continued)

- Applicants will select from a list of sources of financial support that they/their consortium will use to pay the non-discount share of ***Pilot-eligible*** costs:
  - School or library resources
  - Local resources (non-grant)
  - State resources (non-grant)
  - Federal resources (non-grant)
  - Tribal resources (non-grant)
  - Local, state, or federal grants
  - None of the above

FCC Form 484 Part 1: Estimated Costs (Continued)

- Applicants will select from a list of sources of financial support that they/their consortium will use to pay the cost of **Pilot-ineligible** equipment and services:
  - School or library resources
  - Local resources (non-grant)
  - State resources (non-grant)
  - Federal resources (non-grant)
  - Tribal resources (non-grant)
  - Local, state, or federal grants
  - None of the above

FCC Form 484 Part 1: Estimated Costs (Continued)

- Applicants will estimate the costs to implement their proposed plan and provide those estimates in the Form 484 Part 1.

  - Estimated Costs of Pilot-Eligible Services and Equipment

    This is an estimate of the total costs of the eligible services and equipment the applicant plans to seek for its Pilot project

  - Total Estimated Funding Request

    This is an estimate of the total amount of USF funding the applicant plans to request for its proposed Pilot project

  - Estimated Applicant/Participant Share of Cost for Eligible Items

    This is an estimate of the non-discount share of the costs of Pilot-eligible equipment and services that the applicant will be required to pay

  - Estimated Applicant/Participant Cost for Ineligible Items

    This an estimate of the costs for Pilot-ineligible equipment and services that the applicant will need to carry out its Pilot project

  - Total Estimated Pilot Project Cost

    This is the total cost of eligible equipment and services (discount and non-discount shares) + total cost of ineligible equipment and services + any other costs applicants/participants will incur to participate in the Pilot.

FCC Form 484 Part 1: Metrics

- Applicants will answer yes/no questions about their willingness to collect and share metrics related to the Pilot Program:

  - Are you/all the members of your consortium prepared to share the data you will collect and the metrics you will use to assess the outcome of your/your consortium's participation in the Pilot Program?

  - Will you/your consortium require your selected service provider(s) to collect, track, and measure data to determine the cost-effectiveness of the Pilot Program?

  - Will you/your consortium require your selected service provider(s) to collect, track, and measure data to determine the impact of participation in the Pilot Program on your/your consortium's current cybersecurity awareness and readiness?

Questions?

Pilot Program:
Stay Informed

Pilot Program: Stay Informed

- FCC and USAC will host [Pilot Program trainings](#)

- [Sign up for Pilot Program emails](#)

- [FCC Cybersecurity Pilot Program Website](#)

- [USAC Cybersecurity Pilot Program Website](#)

- FAQs are available on the [FCC](#) and [USAC](#) websites
  - Will be supplemented throughout the program

E-Rate Customer Service Center (CSC)

Call us at (888) 203-8100

Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET

Create a customer service case in the E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC):

1. Log into EPC
2. Select the Contact Us link from the upper-right menu on the landing page

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Thank You!

Universal Service Administrative Co.