Consultant Responsibilities

The E-rate consultant agrees to:

- Determine school/library eligibility
- Review school/library technology plan (additional fees may apply)
- Process ALL required forms
- Calculate the applicable discount level
- Review eligible services
- Submit application for program support
- Track all funding decisions

School/Library Responsibilities

The school/library agrees to:

- Assist in all necessary eligibility determinations
- Certify ALL required forms by the required deadlines
- Provide an approved technology plan
- Participate in competitive billing process
- Maintain copies of ALL records for a period of five (5) years

Money Back on Those Telephone Bills ...

Did you know you could be eligible to get money back on your telephone bills?

The Universal Service Fund, more commonly known as E-rate, under the direction of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), provides discounts to assist most schools and libraries in the United States to obtain affordable telecommunications and Internet access. Discounts range from 20% to 90% of the cost of eligible services, depending on the level of poverty and the urban/rural status of the population served.

This program supports connectivity – the conduit or pipeline for using telecommunications services (local phone service, long distance, Ethernet, T1, etc) and/or the internet. The school or library is responsible for providing additional resources as the end-user equipment, (computers, telephones, etc).

Is your school/district getting the funding it deserves?

Please contact us to find out more about this important program, and to see if your school/library may qualify.

Universal Service Administrative Company, “E-RATE DISCOUNTS FOR SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES”.

Joseph Kreta
PO Box 463
Columbia, SC 29202
Phone (848) 702-0313
Fax (404) 920-2682
jkreta.erate@zoho.com
Website: http://kreta-erate.com
The Four Categories of Services*

FCC rules indicate that funds will be available for four eligible categories of service: telecommunications services, Internet access, internal connections, and basic maintenance of internal connections.

First Priority for Funding (Priority 1 Services)
- **Telecommunications Services**: These are services that are used to communicate information electronically between sites. The services must be provided by a telecommunications carrier - i.e., an organization recognized by the FCC as providing telecommunications services on a common carrier basis. Examples of telecommunications services include basic telephone service and digital transmission services such as T-1 lines.
- **Internet Access**: “Basic conduit access” to the Internet including e-mail is eligible for discount and can be provided by a telecommunications carrier or any commercial organization.

Second Priority for Funding (Priority 2 Services)
- **Internal Connections**: Internal connections consist of the wiring and components that expand data access within a school or library such as to individual classrooms within a school. Internal connections can be provided by any commercial organization.
- **Basic Maintenance**: Basic maintenance of internal connections consists of services "necessary to enable the continued operation of the eligible equipment." It includes: repair and upkeep of eligible hardware, wire and cable maintenance, basic technical support, and configuration changes.

* Universal Service Administrative Company, "ELIGIBLE SERVICES FRAMEWORK".

Our Consulting Fees
All consulting fees are based on the amount of approved funding. A standard percentage fee (invoiced quarterly) is charged only on the monies recovered!

E-rate Timetable and List of Deadlines*

Funding Year July 1 through the following June 30 (non-recurring services through the following September 30)

**Form 470**
Posted at least 28 days before the filing of the Form 471, keeping in mind (1) the timeframe for compliance with all competitive bidding requirements and (2) the Form 471 application filing window opening and closing dates

**Form 471 window**
Early November to early February preceding the start of the Funding Year (exact dates for each funding year will be posted on the website)

**Form 471**
Received or postmarked no later than 11:59 PM EST on the day of the close of the Form 471 application filing window (exact date will be posted on the website)

**Form 486**
Received or postmarked no later than 120 days after the date of the Funding Commitment Decision Letter or 120 days after the Service Start Date, whichever is later

**Form 472 / 474**
Received or postmarked no later than 120 days after the date of the Form 486 Notification Letter or 120 days after the last date to receive service, whichever is later

**Appeals**
Received or postmarked no later than 60 days after the date of the SLD decision letter