

# E-rate Funding

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# E-rate Funding for Libraries

- What is E-rate?
- What part will the Alaska State Library play?
- What part will I have to play?
- What do I do next?
- What questions do I have?



# What is E-rate?

- The result of the Telecommunications Act of 1996
- Universal Service Goal: All Americans will have access to communications services
  - Lifeline
  - High Cost/Connect America
  - Rural Health
  - Schools and Libraries (*a.k.a* E-Rate)



# What does E-rate Cover?

- **Priority 1 Services:** For EVERYONE
  - Phone service
  - Internet service
- **Priority 2 Services:** For highest poverty areas
  - Basic Maintenance
  - Internal Connections



# Where Does My Discount Come From?

- The **poverty level** in your school determines your library discount.
- School districts determines poverty by doing either a **NSLP** (lunch count) form *or* conducting an income based **survey** of their students. Note: *Not the school in your community...the entire district where your library resides.*
- The district reports to the state and the State Library accesses that data to fill out your form.
- Your school district would be happy to provide you with this information if you ask.



## What part will the Alaska State Library play?

1. Valerie and Lynn will offer to fill out your forms.                   **- OR -**
2. If you choose to do your own forms, they will be available to answer questions.
  - The Alaska State Library will send reminders, provide training, and answer questions for all libraries wishing to apply.



# What Forms are You Talking About?

- **Form 470**

This form serves as your public notice to service providers that you are welcoming bids on upcoming services.

- **Form 471**

This form is asking for funding (based on the bids you got from the above form) for the upcoming year.

- **Form 486**

This form accepts the funding that has been awarded to you as the result of your request.



# What is my role?

- *RESPOND to requests!!*
  - *ASK QUESTIONS!!*
  - *DON'T DELAY in signing forms!!*
- 
- Give us info when asked.
  - Certify Forms
  - Keep a copy of your E-rate Documents



# What do I do next?

- *If you are a small library that is utilizing the ASL Staff to complete your OWL E-rate application, we will need:*
  1. Permission to let us complete your paperwork
  2. An updated contact sheet, including who your form certifier will be
  3. Your highest phone bill, if applying for phone discounts



## Where do I get the 2 papers you just mentioned?

- See Lynn for a packet.
- The packet will contain:
  - Letter of agreement
  - Contact Information to be edited
  - CIPA information for your library reference

We will need the Letter of Agreement and updated contact information by October 15<sup>th</sup>.



# Questions?



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