



Emergency Bandwidth Increase due to COVID-19





About the Emergency Bandwidth Increase

- The OUSF Emergency Bandwidth Increase is a temporary offering available to schools, libraries, and healthcare entities in response to additional demands made on broadband services due to COVID-19. It allows schools, libraries, and healthcare entities currently receiving OUSF funding to request an increase in bandwidth during this designated emergency period. Funding for the Emergency Bandwidth Increase will continue until **June 30, 2022**, unless extended by the OUSF Administrator.
- The beneficiary should contact its provider to inquire about a temporary upgrade. Following completion of the upgrade, the provider should immediately submit the Emergency Change Request Form and Emergency Change Request Worksheet found on the [OCC website](#) to request immediate approval of bandwidth increases for eligible entities. Submissions beyond 24-hours of the bandwidth increase may result in approval delays. The provider should also submit a copy of the contract and invoices as soon as they are available.



Common Emergency Bandwidth Increase Questions

USAC's second filing window for Funding Year 2020 allowing school requests for bandwidth upgrades due to COVID-19 was open from September 16, 2020 through October 16, 2020.

Will the OUSF fund any non-funded E-rate amounts in cases where the entity was not able to complete the request for E-rate funding for increased bandwidth during the second open window time frame (e.g., entities did not get the information to the USAC Client Service Bureau within the open time frame, or some schools were on fall break during this timeframe)?

The intent of the temporary Emergency Bandwidth Increase is to provide temporary financial assistance during the pandemic in cases where additional bandwidth is needed due to COVID-19. PUD expects the beneficiaries to seek available USAC funding, which could have been requested during the second 2020 open window. Each request will be individually reviewed, and the provider advised of the OUSF funding decision for the increased bandwidth.

If the entity is in a service agreement and the 470 did not include the approved emergency bandwidth would the entity need to request bids (470/RFP) for Fund Year 2021/22?

✓ Yes.



If the entity is in a service agreement and the 470 for the prior bandwidth did include the approved emergency bandwidth, would the entity follow the normal established process for Fund Year 2021/22 (i.e. submit a Change Request /Application if the requested emergency bandwidth was bid and the request involves a change in bandwidth but not carrier; also the entity should file a Request for OUSF Funding if it has reached the 5-year limitation)?

✓ Yes, these are the correct processes to follow in these cases.

Please contact PUD at OUSF@occ.ok.gov for any additional Emergency Bandwidth Increase questions.

Thank you!

