

Helping Schools Successfully Meet E-rate Review Requirements



CASE STUDY

Situation

A school applied to the federal 'E-rate' program for reimbursement to recover the cost associated with its lit fiber special construction project that totaled tens of thousands of dollars. As with most fiber funding requests, the school was subject to an in-depth review that included several detailed questions requiring thorough responses. Although the applicant was familiar with the program, the school did not have the experience, resources and time necessary to effectively manage the review process and respond. As a result, the applicant was concerned it would be unable to provide responses by the deadline with all the essential information and lose the opportunity to receive funding.

Objectives

- Clarify the process and requirements needed to comply with the review.
- Guide applicant through review and avoid potential pitfalls that could result in lost funding.
- Meet aggressive program deadlines.
- Recommend cost-effective solutions that will maximize funding.

Challenges

- Navigate program rule complexities regarding fiber special construction.
- Avoid potential violations as a result of incomplete or erroneous replies and meet all deadlines.
- Develop effect strategy for applicant to address future inquiries.
- Identify all potential funding and maximize reimbursements.

Solution

- Provided extensive counsel and instructions to applicant after examining each review question.
- Explained and demonstrated the review process while also identifying potential errors.
- Offered detailed insight to requested documentation and recommended response format.
- Demonstrated how state matching funding is calculated and instructed applicant how to meet all necessary requirements.

Results

- Applicant responded on time and effectively, resulting in an approval.
- State matching funding was approved, increasing school's discount from 80% to 90% and increasing savings by several thousand dollars.
- School received an additional 10% in discounts in accordance with state matching funding, resulting in the applicant paying \$0.00 for construction and installation.

Rapid Funding Assessment

Solix offers the most experienced E-rate specialists in the nation. Assess your level of compliance, audit preparedness and funding.