

How To File the E-Rate Form 486

Lorrie Germann, State E-Rate Coordinator

Form 486 Overview

- Form 486 has two purposes:
 - It informs USAC that they are authorized to pay invoices (either BEAR or SPIs), and
 - It informs USAC that you are CIPA compliant,
 - which is required if receiving funding for Category 1 Internet Access and all Category 2 services (Internal Connections, Managed Internal Broadband Services, and Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections).
- Can only be filed after the FCDL has been issued (after funding has been committed)
- BEAR and vendor (SPI) invoices cannot be paid until the Form 486 has been submitted
 - FY 2025 BEARs and SPIs can't be submitted until July 1, 2025
- Vendors will generally not discount bills until the Form 486 has been submitted/approved

Form 486 in EPC

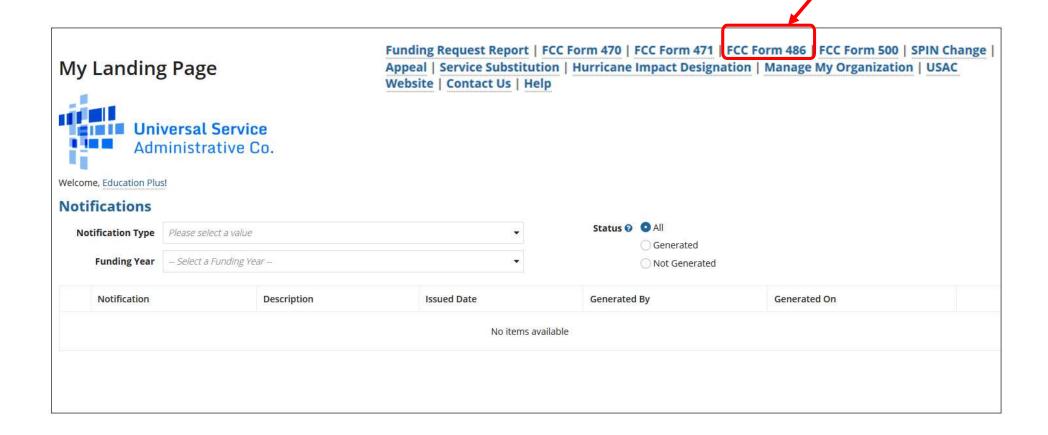
- All Form 486s must be filed in the EPC portal
- Form 486 Approval Letters are e-mailed to applicant
 - Letters also are available under Notifications on the EPC Landing Page
 - No paper 486 Approval Letters will be mailed
- Form 486 is streamlined:
 - Form pre-populates FRNs and service start dates based on the approved 471(s)
 - Applicants will select relevant FRNs and will not enter any new data
 - Certifications will change based on applicant type (school, library or consortium)
 - Form is short, and the easiest of all the E-Rate applications
- Vendors will receive 486 Notifications in their vendor portals

Deadline for Filing Form 486

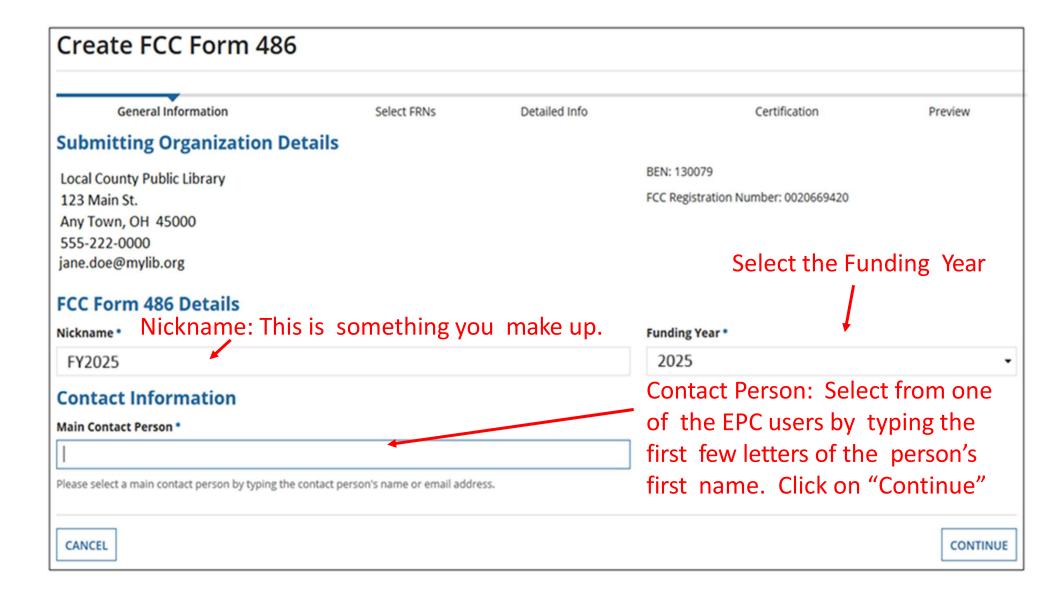
- 120 days after FCDL date or Service Start Date listed on Form 486, whichever is later
 - For Category 1 FRNs, the earliest deadline is usually October 29th, which includes funding letters issued on/before July 1^{st.}
- Penalty for late Form 486 filing:
 - USAC adjusts the Service Start Date to 120 days from the Form 486 filing date
 - Essentially this means USAC will deduct 1 months' worth of funding for each 30 days that the 486 is submitted late
 - If the deadline is missed, USAC will issue a '486
 Urgent Reminder Notice' in EPC Newsfeed
 - Applicants then have 15 additional calendar days to submit the 486 without penalty

Finding the Form 486 in EPC

After the FCDL has been received, you may file the Form 486. Go to the USAC webpage at https://www.usac.org/e-rate/, and log into EPC. From your Landing Page, click on FCC Form 486 in upper right corner.



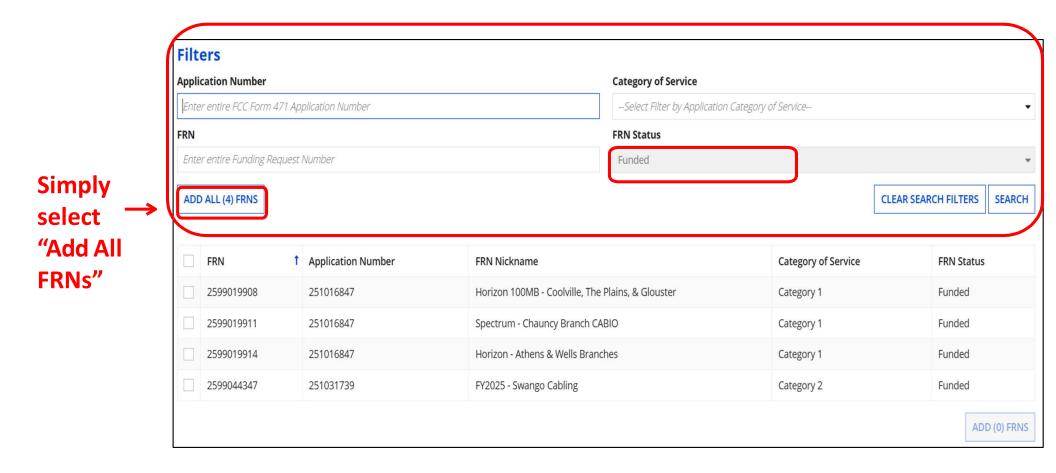
Nickname/Contact Name



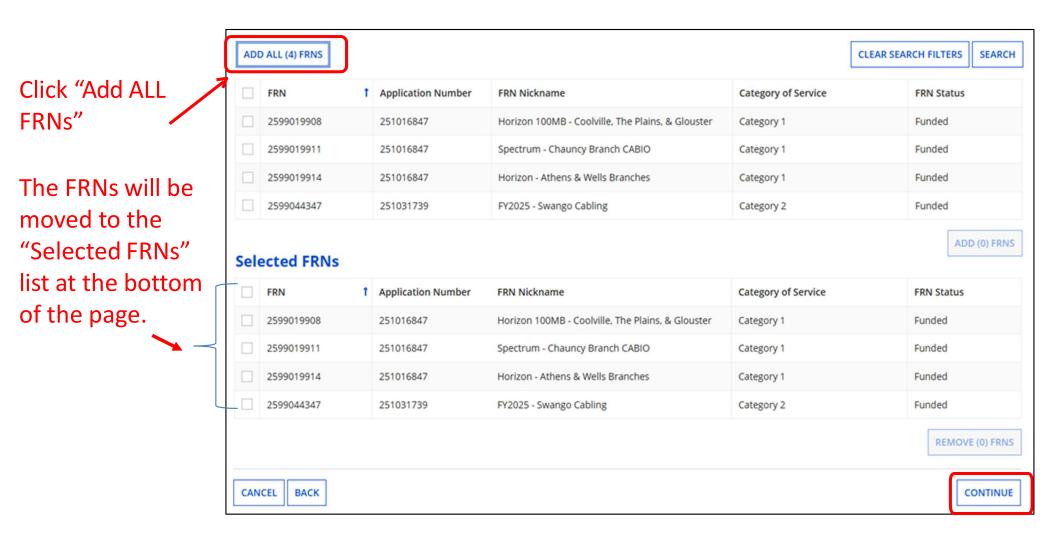
Selecting FRNs: Don't User Filter

Note on Filter: You do NOT need to use the Filter; the FRNs that have been funded for FY2025 will display at the bottom of the screen. The Filter is helpful if you have a long list of FRNs and need to search for a single one.

Also, you can include **BOTH** Category 1 and Category 2 FRN's on the same 486.

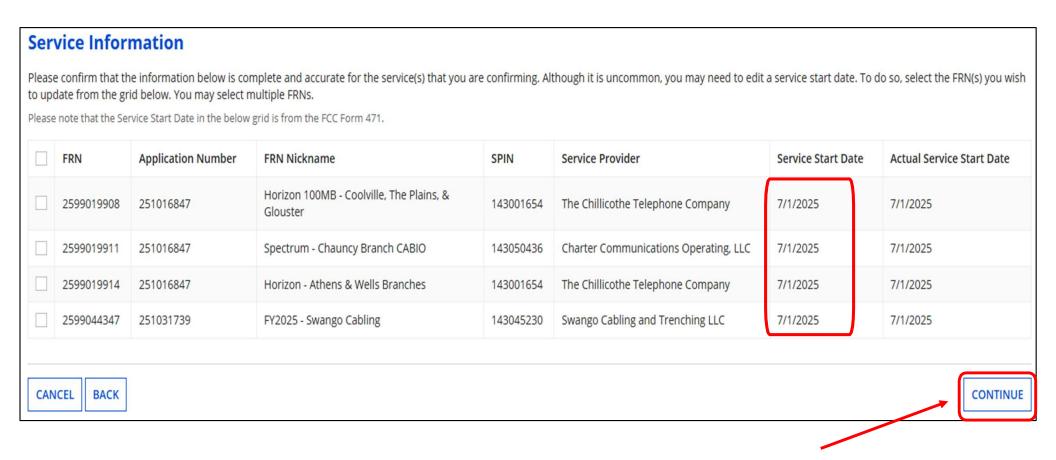


Adding FRNs



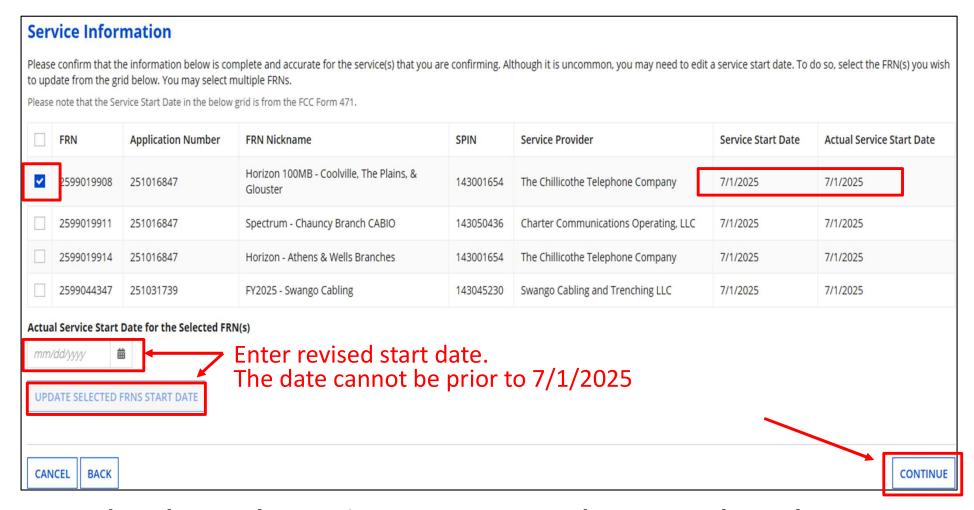
Click Continue

Confirm that Data is Accurate



The Service Start Date will display based on what was provided on the Form 471. If all data is accurate, simply click **Continue**.

Confirm that Data is Accurate

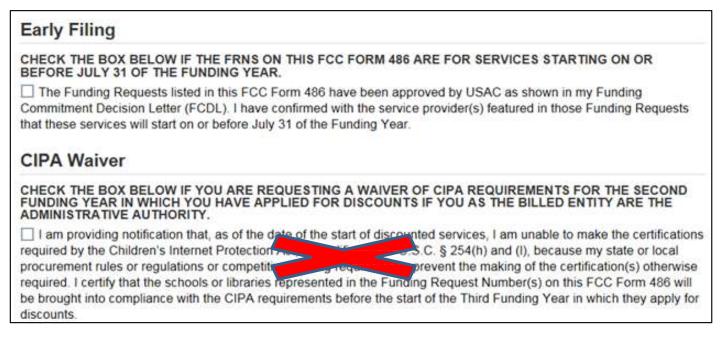


If you need to change the Service Start Date to a date LATER than what you listed on the 471, check the box next to the FRN #, enter the revised date, and click on "Update Selected FRNS Start Date". Note: If this is for C1, USAC will reduce your funding if you push back your service start date.

Early Filing/CIPA Waiver?

Early Filing: If the FCDL is received prior to July 31 and if your services will begin prior to July 31 (or equipment received before July 31), you should check the Early Filing box. Otherwise, don't check.

CIPA Waiver: Do not check the CIPA waiver box. If you are not CIPA compliant, but if asking for bandwidth circuits only, you will provide that certification later in the application.



If you have Full Rights and are certifying the application, click Continue. (If you don't have Full Rights, you must "Send for Certification" so a Full Rights EPC User can certify the Form 486.)



General Certifications – All Applicants

Check the top 2 Certification boxes - required for all applicants.

Certifications

- I certify that the services listed on this FCC Form 486 have been, are planned to be, or are being provided to all or some of the eligible entities identified in the FCC Form 471 application(s) cited above. I certify that there are signed contracts covering all of the services listed on this FCC Form 486 except for those services provided under tariff or on a month-to-month basis. I certify that I am authorized to submit this receipt of service confirmation on behalf of the above-named Billed Entity; that I have examined this request; and that, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, all statements of fact contained herein are true.
- ✓ I understand that the discount level used for shared services is conditional, for future years, upon ensuring that the most disadvantaged schools and libraries that are treated as sharing in the services receive an appropriate share of benefits from those services. I recognize that I may be audited pursuant to this application and will retain for at least ten years (or whatever retention period is required by the rules in effect at the time of this certification) after the latter of the last day of the applicable funding year or the service delivery deadline for the funding request any and all records, including FCC Forms 479 where required, and, if audited, will make such records available to the Administrator.

Scroll down to the CIPA Certifications.

CIPA Certifications

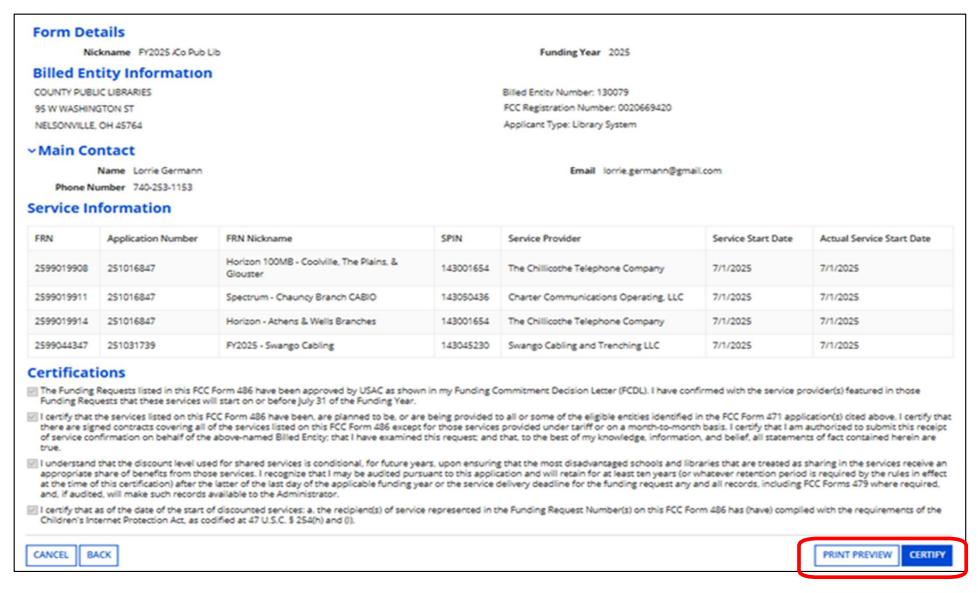
Be Careful!!!

ONLY check the first circle to signify that you are CIPA compliant. **Do NOT check the 2**nd **or 3**rd **buttons!** When done, click on "**Preview**".

CIPA Certifications I certify that as of the date of the start of discounted services:* I certify that as of the date of the start of discounted services: a. the recipient(s) of service represented in the Funding Request Number(s) on this FCC Form 486 has (have) complied with the requirements of the children's Internet Protection Act, as codified at 47 U.S.C. § 254(h) and (l). I certify that as of the date of the start of discounted services: Pursuant to the Children's Internet Protection Act, as codified at 47 U.S.C. § 254(h) and (l), the recipient(s) of service represented in the Funding Request Number(s) on this Form 486: (FOR SCHOOLS and FOR LIBRARIES IN THE FIRST FUNDING YEAR FOR PURPOSES OF CIPA) is (are) undertaking such actions, including any necessary procurement procedures, to comply with the requirements of CIPA for the next funding year, but has (have) not completed all requirements of CIPA for this funding year. I certify that as of the date of the start of discounted services: The Children's Internet Protection Act does not apply because the recipient(s) of service represented in the Funding Request Number(s) on this FCC Form 486 is (are) receiving discount services only for telecommunications services.

If you are **NOT** CIPA compliant but only receiving discounts on telecom services, which include bandwidth circuits, check the 3rd box. We see this with libraries where OPLIN provides Internet Access, so the library is only requesting bandwidth for their branches.

FCC Form 486 Preview



Verify everything is correct. If so, click on "Certify".

Note: "Print Preview" will show all possible certifications not previously displayed. These are for other applicant types (school, library, or consortium).

Confirmation Page After Certifying

Certifier Information

You have successfully filed FCC Form 486 #377887 for FY 2025

Click here to view and print the FCC Form 486

Certification Date

4/28/2025 4:56 PM EDT

Authorized Person

Name Jane Doe

Title Director

Employer Local County Library

Address 123 Main St.

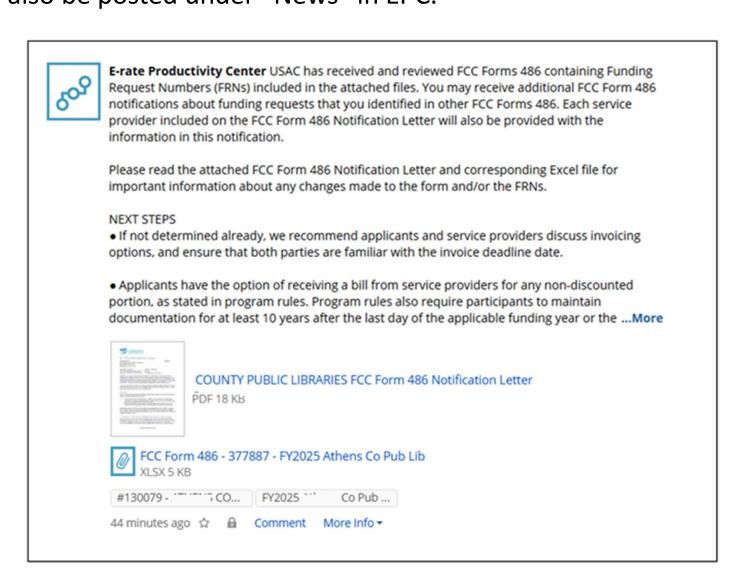
Any Town, OH 45000

Phone 555-222-0000

Email jane.doe@mylib.org

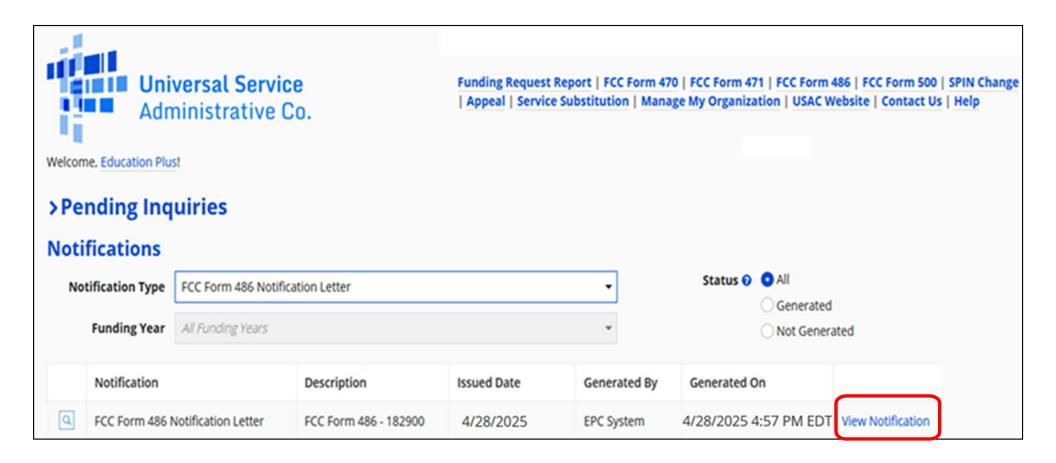
Form 486 Approval via E-mail

The Form 486 Notification Letter will be emailed to the 486 contact. It will also be posted under "News" in EPC.



Form 486 Approval in EPC

At the top of your EPC Landing Page under "Notifications", select 'Form 486 Notification Letter'



Clicking on "View Notification" will take you to the News feed listing.'



Do you have questions?

Contact Information



For E-Rate Support and Information, please contact:

Lorrie Germann: 740-253-1153

E-mail: lorrie.germann@education.ohio.gov

To subscribe to the E-Rate list, send an email with no message to join-erate@list.em.ohio.gov.