

Bring 21st Century Library Services to all New Yorkers: Support E-Rate



What is the E-Rate Program?

On May 7, 1997, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted a Universal Service Order implementing the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The Order, commonly referred to as "E-Rate" (Education Rate), ensures that all eligible schools and libraries have affordable access to modern telecommunications and information services. Up to \$2.25 billion annually was authorized initially to provide eligible schools and libraries with E-Rate discounts. The amount actually allocated by Congress for 1998-99 was \$1.9 billion, but the full \$2.25 billion has been authorized each year beginning with 1999-2000. As of FY 2019 the annual E-rate cap for both category one and category two services is \$4.15 billion, indexed to inflation. During times of zero inflation or deflation, the funding cap will remain the same as the previous year.

The E-Rate Program is important to New York State. It ensures that all eligible schools and libraries have affordable access to modern telecommunications and information services.



How does the E-Rate Program help New York State Libraries?

The E-Rate Program provides funding to eligible public libraries and public library systems, not-for-profit special libraries, and reference and research library resources systems. In Program Years 1-22, New York received a yearly average of \$10.1 million for a grand total of almost \$225 million from the E-Rate Program. New York's libraries have received almost \$6.6 million, as of January 2020, for Program Year 22 (2019). This funding helps libraries purchase affordable advanced telecommunications services, Internet connectivity, and internal connections to meet the information needs of New Yorkers — critical infrastructure in today's information-rich world.

NEW YORK STATE LIBRARIES AND LIBRARY SYSTEMS E-Rate Funding Received Years 13-22 (2010-2019)

