

Addendum 1. Interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol Services ITB

We have received the following inquiry about our ITB:

The HMCPL Bid specifically states that hosted VoIP solutions will not be accepted. It then goes on to refer to some limitation as to the ability of those services to be funded through the E-Rate program. The Bid seems to specify a premise based, library owned solution. These type solutions are typically Priority 2 funded services. The funding of Priority 2 requests by the SLD is not common and is usually uncertain.

In light of previous year funding history and Priority 1 taking precedence over Priority 2, can you please explain the above mentioned HMCPL statements in the bid?

HMCPL Response:

We are requesting quotes for VoIP services that meet the requirements to qualify for Priority 1 e-rate funding in the Telecommunications Services category. The specifications in our ITB are based on information provided by the Schools and Libraries (SLD) on the USAC website and in response to the following question from HMCPL to the SLD:

HMCPL: The FCC definition for Interconnected VoIP includes as number 3 the statement “requires Internet protocol-compatible customer premises equipment (CPE).” Are VoIP services that are hosted offsite, cloud-based and/or SAS eligible?

SLD: Thank you for your inquiry. No, this would not be eligible.

Information on VoIP from the Reference Area on the USAC SLD website is included here. Diagrams of Priority 1 customer premises equipment installations are also available on the website.

HMCPL staff are not experts in the rules of e-rate eligible services and have no prior experience with VoIP. We are seeking bids that meet the requirements to qualify for Priority 1 funding on this service. Bidders should specify what parts of the equipment and services proposed are eligible for Priority 1 funding and which, if applicable, are not. Bids for equipment and services that are eligible for only Priority 2 funding will not be considered.