



Communication Audit Services

# E-Rate Primer



# CAS

Communication Audit Services

## Who is eligible

- Public K-12 School Districts
- Charter Schools
- Private Schools
- Public Libraries
- Head Start, Pre-K, Juvenile Justice, Adult Education, & Special Education as determined by individual state law



# CAS

Communication Audit Services

## What is eligible

- Category One Services (Broadband)
  - 20%-90% discounts
  - Discounts based on F&R Eligibility
  - Eligible to apply every year
- Category Two Services (Equipment)
  - 20%-85% discounts
  - Discounts based on F&R eligibility
  - Per student budget for 5 year period (currently \$159/student)



# CAS

Communication Audit Services

## Category One Services

- Internet Access
- Wide Area Network Service
- Firewall as a Bundled Service
- Special Construction of Fiber
- Mobile Data Network (only when more cost effective than Wi-Fi)



# CAS

Communication Audit Services

## Category Two Services

- Internal Connections
- Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections
- Managed Internal Broadband Services



# CAS

Communication Audit Services

## Internal Connections

- Switches
- Wireless Access Points
- Routers and Controllers
- Cabling/Wiring
- Firewall
- Caching Servers/Service
- Racks
- UPS to support above
- Software to support above



# CAS

Communication Audit Services

## Basic Maintenance of I/C

- Must be on a “Pay as you go” basis
- Repair and upkeep of eligible hardware
- Configuration Changes
- Basic Technical Support
- Software Upgrades and Patches
- Wire & Cable Maintenance



# CAS

Communication Audit Services

## Managed Internal Broadband Services

- Services provided by a third party for the operation, management, & monitoring of eligible Internal Connections
- Network equipment may be owned by entity or leased from a third party
- Includes installation, activation & initial configuration as well as on-site training in use of eligible equipment





# CAS

Communication Audit Services

## Why Use a Consultant

- Reduce the management burden of cumbersome application process
- Ensure compliance with constantly changing rules & regulations
- Routers and Controllers
- Support in the event of audit or appeal
- Ensure that all eligible goods and services are in application
- Discount rate maximization
- Related services such as consortia purchasing



# CAS

Communication Audit Services

## CAS Reduces Application Burden

- Files all E-Rate forms including 470, 471, 486, 500, BEAR , others as deemed necessary
- Answers all PIA questions
- Manages audits and reviews
- Files RALs and appeals
- Designates reimbursement methods with vendors
- Creates RFPs



# CAS

Communication Audit Services

## CAS Ensures Legal Compliance

- All consultants attend yearly USAC training
- Consultants regularly participate in conference calls and webinars with USAC, vendors, and state officials
- CAS participates in many professional associations to gain a better understanding of the issues facing applicants and how they may be incorporated into E-Rate planning & strategy



# CAS

Communication Audit Services

## CAS Manages Audits

- CAS will be physically present for any on-site audit
- As part of engagement will manage audits of all past applications
- Guaranteed support for the lifetime of any application filed
- Represents clients with USAC, the FCC and outside auditors
- Writes and files appeals with both USAC and the FCC



# CAS

Communication Audit Services

## CAS Ensure All Eligible Services are Included

- Regularly discuss needs with technology staff
- Attend trainings & conference calls to be up to date on eligibility services list
- Review contracts for compliance
- Review RFPs for compliance
- Work with vendors and consortia to better understand new technologies and how they apply to E-Rate



# CAS

Communication Audit Services

## CAS Ensure All Eligible Services are Included

- Regularly discuss needs with technology staff
- Attend trainings & conference calls to be up to date on eligibility services list
- Review contracts for compliance
- Review RFPs for compliance
- Work with vendors and consortia to better understand new technologies and how they apply to E-Rate



# CAS

Communication Audit Services

## CAS Maximizes Discount Rate

- Review Free and Reduced Eligibility numbers with Child Nutrition Staff
- Experts in alternative methods of discount calculation including;
  - Surveys
  - Sibling-Matching
  - CEP
  - Financial Aid Forms
  - Combining Methods



# CAS

Communication Audit Services

## CAS' Purchasing Expertise

- Work closely with the USETPA ([www.usetpa.org](http://www.usetpa.org)) to ensure lowest possible prices
- USETPA Form 470 available to all clients to potentially streamline bidding process
- Works with state and other regional consortia as dictated by applicant needs





# CAS

Communication Audit Services

## CAS Overview

- National full service consultancy with clients in 23 states
- All inclusive fee which is fully contingent upon successful funding
- Represents public school districts, charter school, private schools, Head Start, libraries, special education cooperatives, & consortia
- Consultants backgrounds include technology, education, & finance
- Offices in Southport, NC & Northbrook, IL



# CAS

Communication Audit Services

## CAS Overview

- National full service consultancy with clients in 23 states
- All inclusive fee which is fully contingent upon successful funding
- Represents public school districts, charter school, private schools, Head Start, libraries, special education cooperatives, & consortia
- Consultants backgrounds include technology, education, & finance
- Offices in Southport, NC & Northbrook, IL



# CAS

Communication Audit Services

## CAS Contacts

Communications Audit Services, LLC  
5 Revere Drive, Ste 200  
Northbrook, IL 60062  
Phone: (847)509.5980

Communications Audit Services, LLC  
4438 Glencsape Ln SE  
Southport, NC 28461  
Phone: (910)250.8190  
Fax: (910)653.1669

[info@comaudit.services](mailto:info@comaudit.services)