

E-Rate and West Virginia: An Overview

Mary Aldridge, State E-Rate Coordinator
WV Department of Education
Office of Data Analysis and Research

mary.aldridge@k12.wv.us
304-558-8869 x53284



WHAT IS E-RATE?

Eligible Schools and Libraries

- All counties, Deaf & Blind school and Diversion/Transition facilities

Federal program with funding of \$5.059 billion

- Money does NOT come from federal budget – USF fee

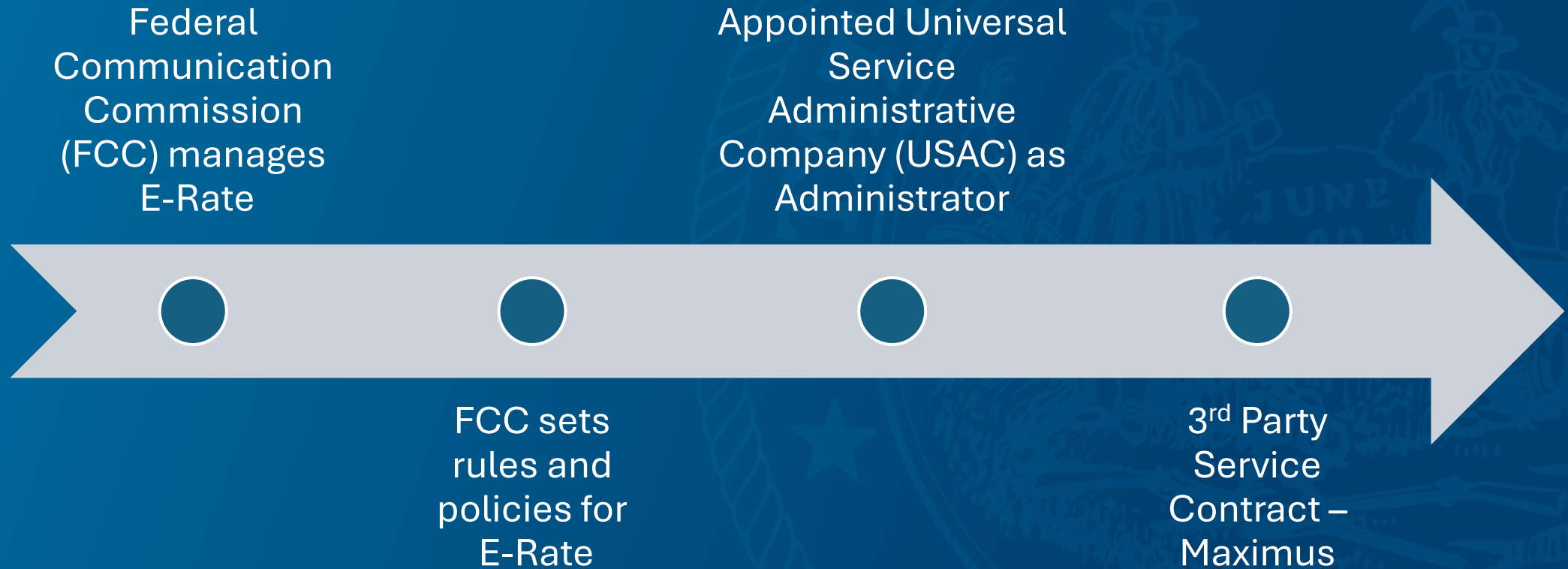
Discounts – range up to 90%

- Average discount for our state Internet application is 87%

Program is deadline restrictive

- Must file at the appropriate times

E-RATE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS





THE GOOD ABOUT E-RATE

- Schools obtain discounts on products and services
- Reduces the schools & counties expenses
- Schools get broadband access
- Improves the technology infrastructure

THE BAD...

- 3rd Party management company
- Tracking of simultaneous Funding Years
- Missing Deadlines
- Equipment/services that are ineligible
- Compliance Requirements
- Application Process

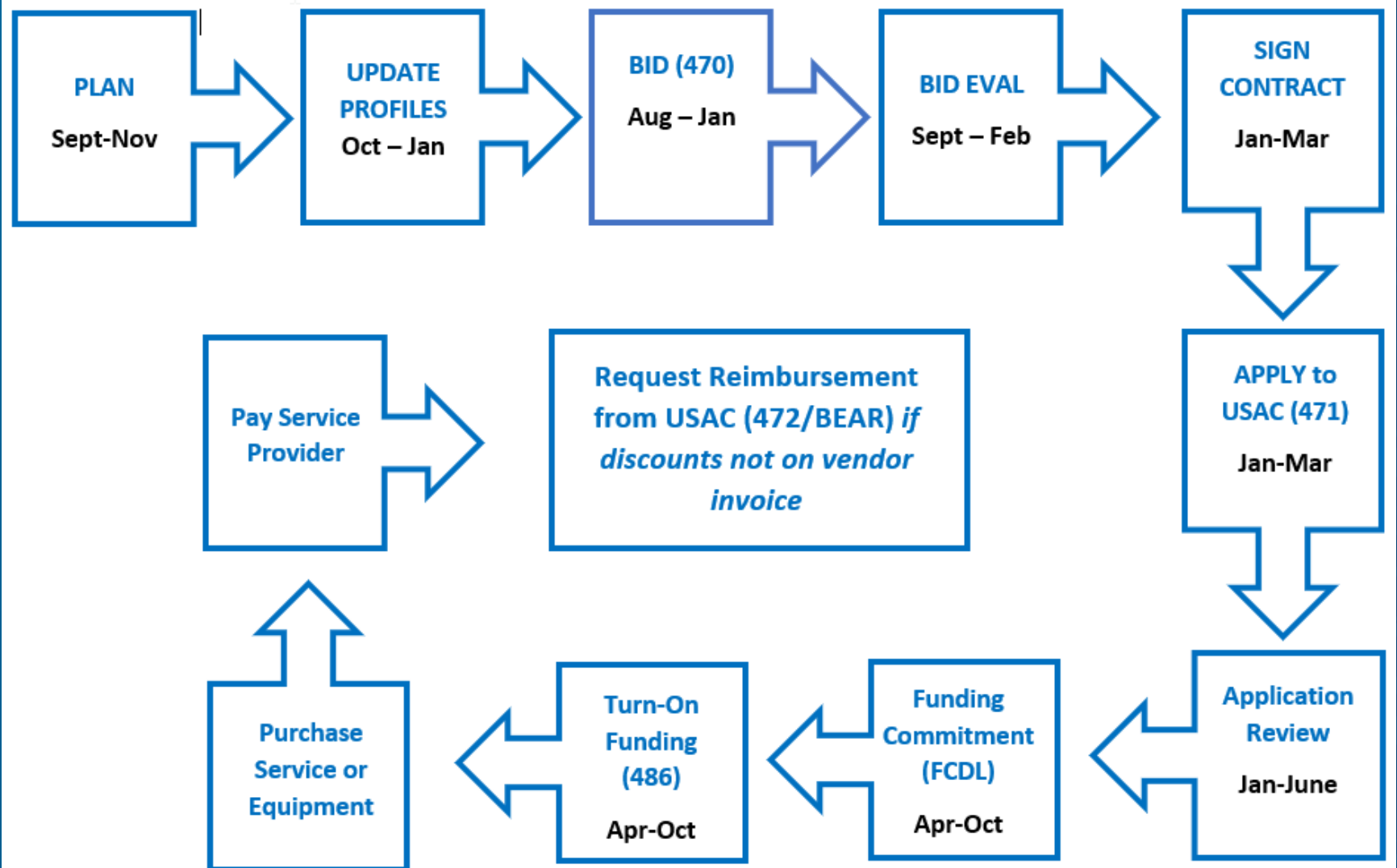


THE UGLY...

- Multiple Deadline Tracking
- Acronyms!
- EPC Online Portal
- Time Involved



STAGES OF E-RATE CYCLE





FUNDING YEARS



Funding Years:
July 1 through
the following
June 30



5 YEAR
Funding Cycle
Current cycle
is 2021-2025



FY 2025 is from
July 1, 2025 –
June 30, 2026



FY 2026 is from
July 1, 2026 –
June 30, 2027



FCC Forms 470
and 471 are
filed in the
preceding year
for the new
funding year





CATEGORY 1

- Broadband connectivity and conduit access
- WiFi Hotspots
- Mobile Wireless Internet Services (Bus WiFi) used off premises
- Leased lit and dark fiber
- Usually, anything that transports Internet up to the school building.



CATEGORY 2

- Internal connections such as routers, UPS, switches, wiring
- Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections (BMIC) – repair and upkeep of eligible products including software upgrades and patches
- Managed Internal Broadband Services (MIBs) – services provided by a 3rd party to maintain, operate, and monitor eligible components of your network
- Usually, equipment and services **within the school.**



FORM 470 – COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Service Providers
bid on new
projects/services
for your county

- Can include an RFP
- Built in 29 day waiting period

July 1st – requests
begin in the
preceding year

Must select the
most cost-effective
bid

- Other considerations
can factor in decision



FORM 471 – APPLYING FOR FUNDS

Must apply every year
for E-Rate funding

Internet services
and/or
Equipment

2 separate 471s
required for CAT1
and CAT2

Provides details about
equipment and
services you are
requesting

Cost of services
OR equipment
costs

Specific
make/models of
equipment

List specific entities
that receive the
service

Individual
schools or non-
Instructional
Facility (NIF)

SAMPLE 471 APPLICATION

OMB 3060-0806
FCC Form 471



Universal Service
Administrative Co.

Description of Services Ordered and Certification DRAFT Form 471

FCC Form 471

Application Information

Nickname FY2025 WV State Internet
Funding Year 2025

Application Number 251021281
Category of Service Category 1

Billed Entity

WEST VIRGINIA STATE DEPT OF ED
1900 KANAWHA BLVD E, BUILDING 6, Room 550
CHARLESTON WV 25305 - 0330
304-558-8869
mary.aldridge@k12.wv.us

Billed Entity Number 126678
FCC Registration Number 0011863149
Applicant Type Consortium

Contact Information

Mary Aldridge
304-558-8869
mary.aldridge@k12.wv.us

| BEN | Name | Urban/ Rural | State LEA ID | State School ID | NCES Code | School District Attributes | How does the district report its student count for Category Two budget? | Total Student Count for Category Two Budget | Endowment |
|--------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--|---|-----------|
| 126652 | MCDOWELL CO SCHOOL DISTRICT | Rural | | | | Public Sch ool District | A number for each school in the district | 2698 | None |
| 126654 | WYOMING COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT | Rural | | | | Public Sch ool District | A number for each school in the district | 3700 | None |
| 126657 | GREENBRIER COUNTY SCHOOL DIST | Rural | | | | Public Sch ool District | A number for each school in the district | 4886 | None |
| 126660 | POCAHONTAS CO SCHOOL DISTRICT | Rural | | | | Public Sch ool District | A number for each school | 917 | None |
| 126661 | MONROE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT | Rural | | | | | | | |

Line Item # 2599026900.001

Product and Service Details

Purpose Internet access service with no circuit (data circuit to ISP state/regional network is billed separately)

Function Fiber

Type of Connection Ethernet

Bandwidth Speed

Upload Speed 90.0 Gbps Download Speed 90.0 Gbps

Connection Information

Does this include firewall services? No Is this a connection between eligible schools, libraries and NIFs (i.e., a connection that provides a "Wide area network")? No
Is this a direct connection to a single school, library or a NIF for Internet access? Yes

Cost Calculation for FRN Line Item # 2599026900.001

| Monthly Cost | | One-Time Cost | |
|---|------------------|---|------------------|
| Monthly Recurring Unit Cost | \$346,500.00 | One-time Unit Cost | \$0.00 |
| Monthly Recurring Unit Ineligible Costs | = \$0.00 | One-time Ineligible Unit Costs | = \$0.00 |
| Monthly Recurring Unit Eligible Costs | = \$346,500.00 | One-time Eligible Unit Cost | = \$0.00 |
| Monthly Quantity | x 1 | One-time Quantity | x 0 |
| Total Monthly Eligible Recurring Costs | = \$346,500.00 | Total Eligible One-time Costs | = \$0.00 |
| Months of Service | x 12 | Summary | |
| Total Eligible Recurring Costs | = \$4,158,000.00 | Total Eligible Recurring Costs | \$4,158,000.00 |
| | | Total Eligible One-time Costs | + \$0.00 |
| | | Pre-Discount Extended Eligible Line Item Cost | = \$4,158,000.00 |



WHAT IS A RECURRING SERVICE?

Services delivered
continuously or at regular
intervals

Monthly Internet Service

Basic Maintenance of
Internal Connections (BMIC)

3rd Party Managed Internal
Broadband Services (MIBS)



WHAT IS A NON-RECURRING SERVICE?

One-time eligible equipment and services

Category 2 budget is used

Examples: Routers, switches, UPS, APs











LEAD UP TO FILING WINDOW

Process begins approximately 6-9 months in advance of the funding year.

- Administrative Window
- Competitive Bidding – Form 470 begins in July
- Filing Window – Form 471 opens mid January through March

E-rate Funding Years – Dates to Remember

| | APPLICATION PROCESS | | | | RECURRING SERVICES | | NON-RECURRING EQUIPMENT/SERVICES | |
|----------------|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Admin Window EPC Profile Updates  | Form 470 Competitive Bidding  | Form 471 Application Window to Request Discounts  | Form 486 Service Start Date + CIPA Certification  | Delivery Dates (Category 1 or 2)  | Form 472 BEAR Invoicing Deadline  | Purchase/Installation Dates  | Form 472 BEAR Invoicing Deadline  |
| FY 2025 | Oct. 15, 2024 to Jan. 9, 2025 | July 1, 2024 To Feb. 28, 2025 (29-days before 471 deadline) | Jan. 15, 2025 – Mar. 26, 2025 | 120 days from: FCDL or Service Start Date (whichever is later) | July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 | Oct. 28, 2026 | April 1, 2025 to Sept. 30, 2026 | Jan. 28, 2027 |
| FY 2024 | Oct. 24, 2023 to Jan. 16, 2024 | July 1, 2023 To Feb. 28, 2024 (29-days before 471 deadline) | Jan. 18, 2024 – Mar. 27, 2024 | 120 days from: FCDL or Service Start Date (whichever is later) | July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 | Oct. 29, 2025 | April 1, 2024 to Sept. 30, 2025 | Jan. 28, 2026 |
| FY 2023 | Oct. 26, 2022 to Jan. 10, 2023 | July 1, 2022 To Feb. 22, 2023 (29-days before 471 deadline) | Jan. 12, 2023 – Mar. 22, 2023 | 120 days from: FCDL or Service Start Date (whichever is later) | July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 | Oct. 28, 2024 | April 1, 2023 to Sept. 30, 2024 | Jan. 28, 2025 |
| Notes | | Don't bid if in an existing, E-rate-valid, multi-year contract | A 471 must be filed every year to receive \$\$ | FCDL = Funding Commitment Decision Letter | Broadband, Internet, Maintenance Services are Recurring | May request one 120-day extension if submitted by BEAR deadline | Non-recurring = one-time purchases | May request one 120-day extension if submitted by BEAR deadline |

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES IN WEST VIRGINIA

Elementary and
Secondary schools
based on statutory
definition according to
“No Child Left Behind
Act of 2001”


Schools that are
NOT eligible
operate as:

For profit

Endowments
over \$50
million

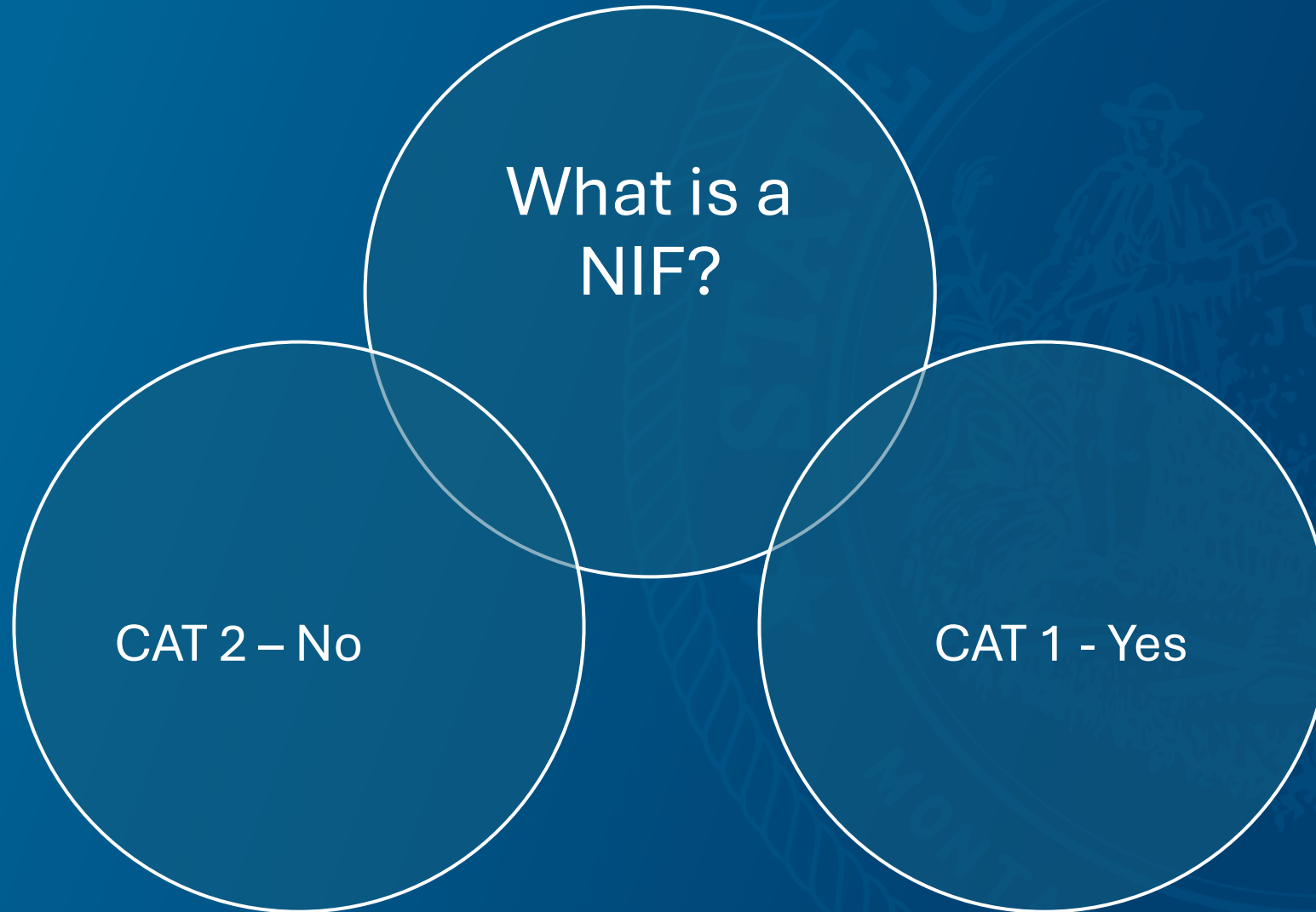


ELIGIBILITY TABLE FOR WEST VIRGINIA

| West Virginia | | |
|---|---|-----|
| Head Start | <u>Yes, if part of a public school district or a stand-alone facility recognized by the state or under collaborative contract with the Board of Education</u>  | |
| Pre-kindergarten | Facilities | Yes |
| | Students | Yes |
| Adult Education | Facilities | Yes |
| | Students | Yes |
| Juvenile Justice | Facilities | Yes |
| | Students | Yes |
| Special Education Students Ages 3-21 | Yes | |



NON-INSTRUCTIONAL FACILITIES - NIFS





CONSORTIUM – WVDE

What is a
consortium?

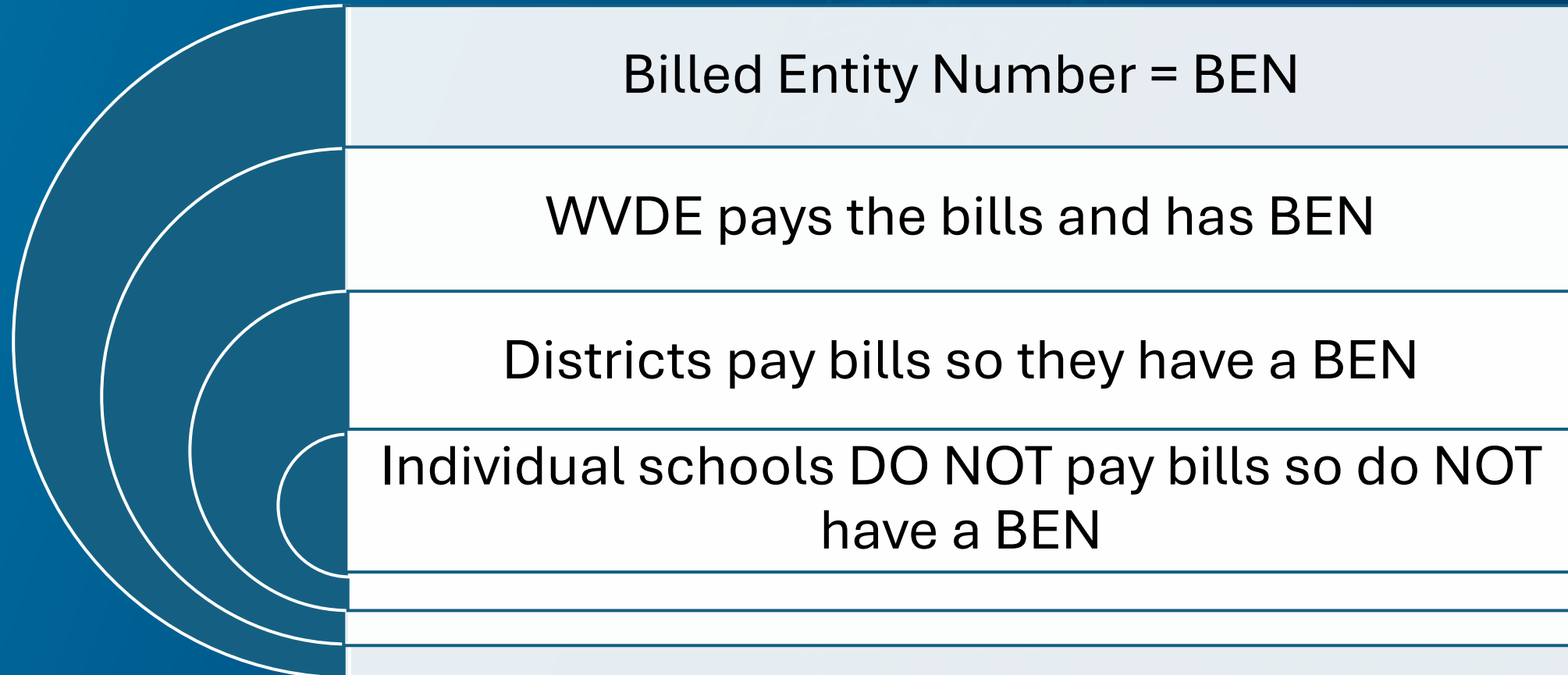
- Why do we have it?
- WV School Districts

WV Department
of Education –
Consortium
Leader

- Responsibilities and duties




BILLED ENTITY NUMBER – “PARENT”





ENTITY NUMBER – “CHILD”



An entity that receives E-Rate discounted services but is not responsible for billing/invoicing.

Individual schools receive services but do NOT pay the bills = child entity number



FUNDING REQUEST NUMBER - FRN

A number that corresponds to the services or equipment you are purchasing via the E-Rate program.

Eg. 253859305



FUNDING COMMITMENT DECISION LETTER - FCDL



Universal Service
Administrative Co.

September 12, 2024

Funding Commitment Decision Letter

Funding Year 2024

Contact Information:
Mary Aldridge
WEST VIRGINIA STATE DEPT OF ED
1900 KANAWHA BLVD E, BUILDING 6, Room 550
CHARLESTON, WV 25305
mary.aldridge@k12.wv.us

FCC Form 471: 241012646

BEN: 126678
Wave: 21
Application Nickname: FY2024 WVDE Internet

Totals

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Total Committed | \$4,297,920.00 |
|-----------------|----------------|



NON-DISCOUNTED SHARE

The portion each applicant is required to pay according to their county discount percentage.

Equipment costs = \$1,000.00

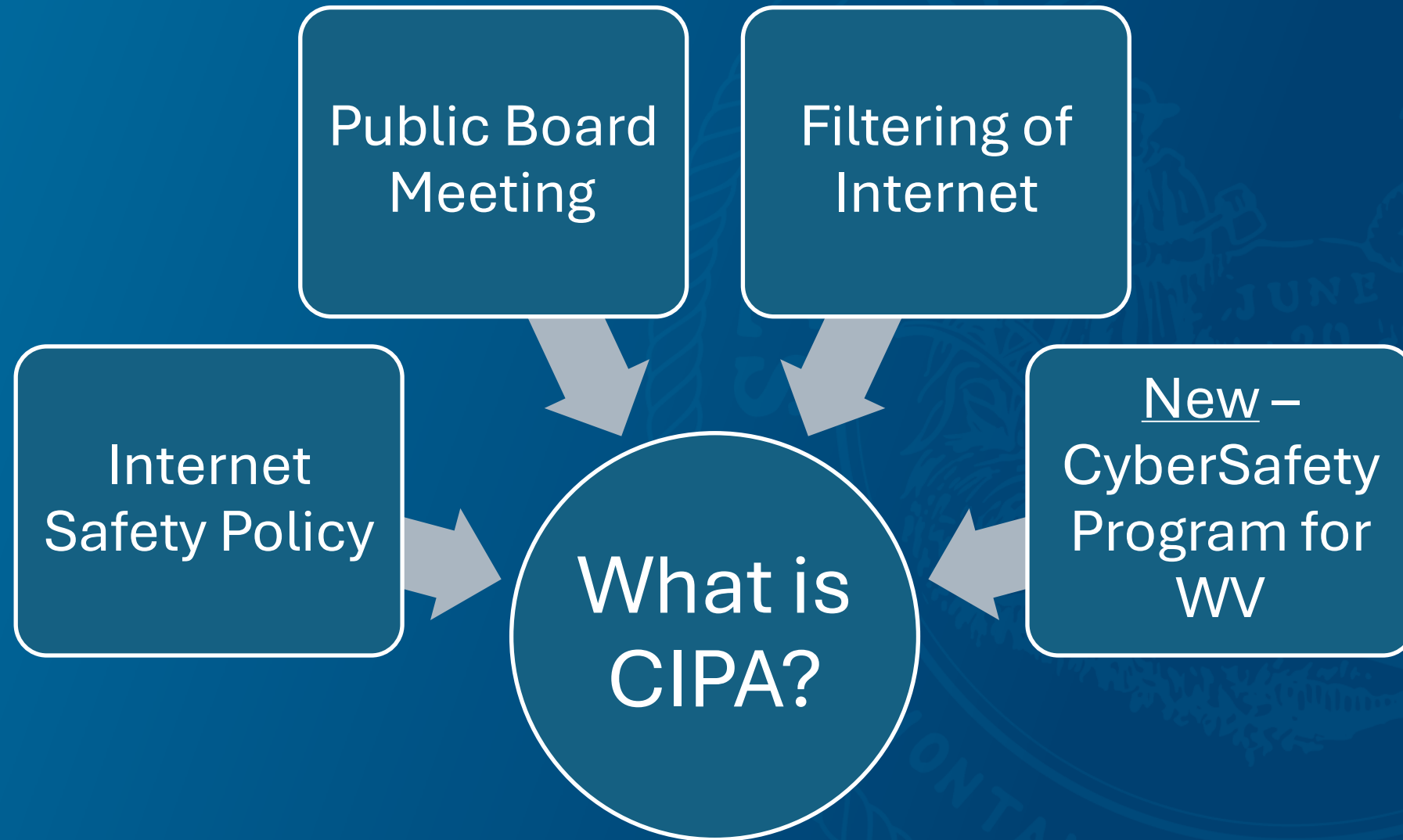
County discount percent = 80%

80% of 1,000 = \$200.00

Non-discount share the school must pay: \$200.00



CHILDRENS INTERNET PROTECTION ACT - CIPA



EPC PORTAL – E-RATE PRODUCTIVITY CENTER


What is
EPC?

What is an
Account
Administrator?

News Tasks Records **Reports** Actions

My State Coordinator Landing Page

[EPC E-Rate Invoicing](#) | [USAC Website](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Help](#)



Universal Service
Administrative Co.

Welcome to the new EPC system, more functionality will be rolling out soon!

Notifications

Notification Type *Please select a value*

Funding Year *-- Select a Funding Year --*

Status ☒ All
☐ Generated
☐ Not Generated

| Notification | Description | Issued Date | Generated By | Generated On |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| No items available | | | | |

My Tasks

| Name | Received | Status | Deadline |
|--------------------|----------|--------|----------|
| No items available | | | |

FRN Report

[Funding Request Report](#)

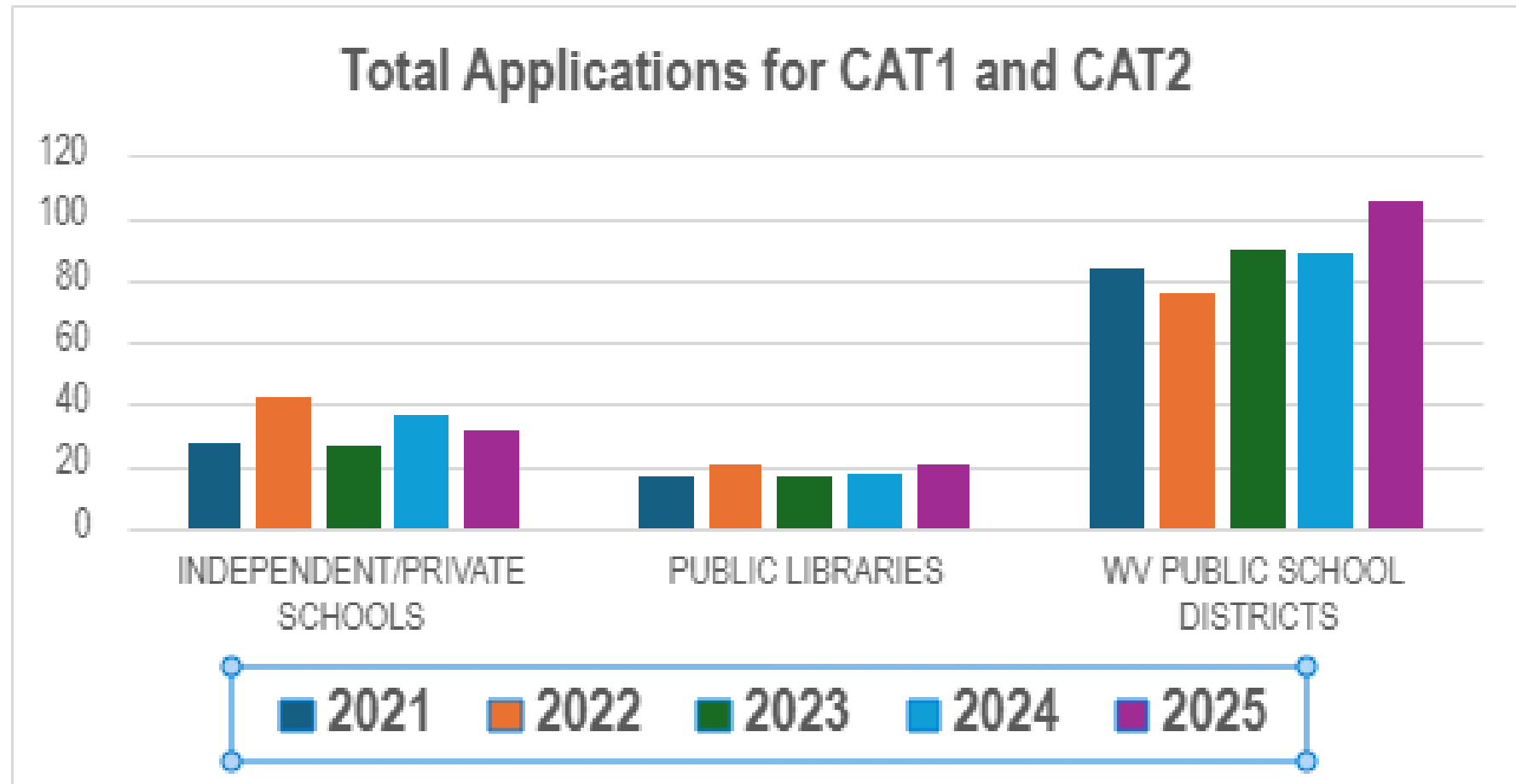
Search Report

Report Type*

☒ Constituent Organizations
☐ Customer Service Cases



NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS BY ENTITY TYPE – 5 YEAR PERIOD

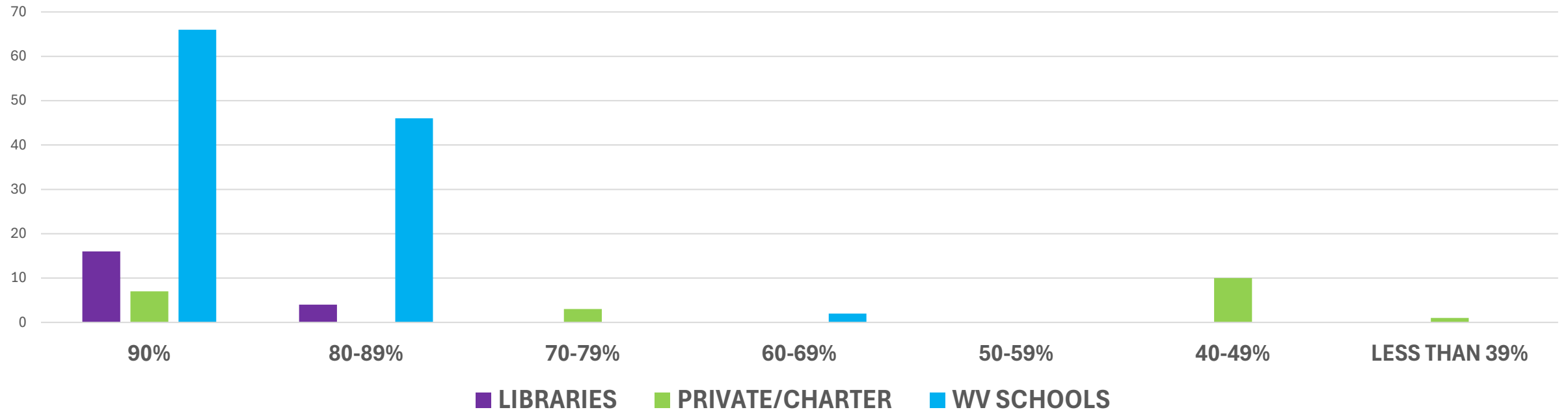




DISCOUNTS BY TYPE – CAT1 & CAT2



DISCOUNTS BY TYPE



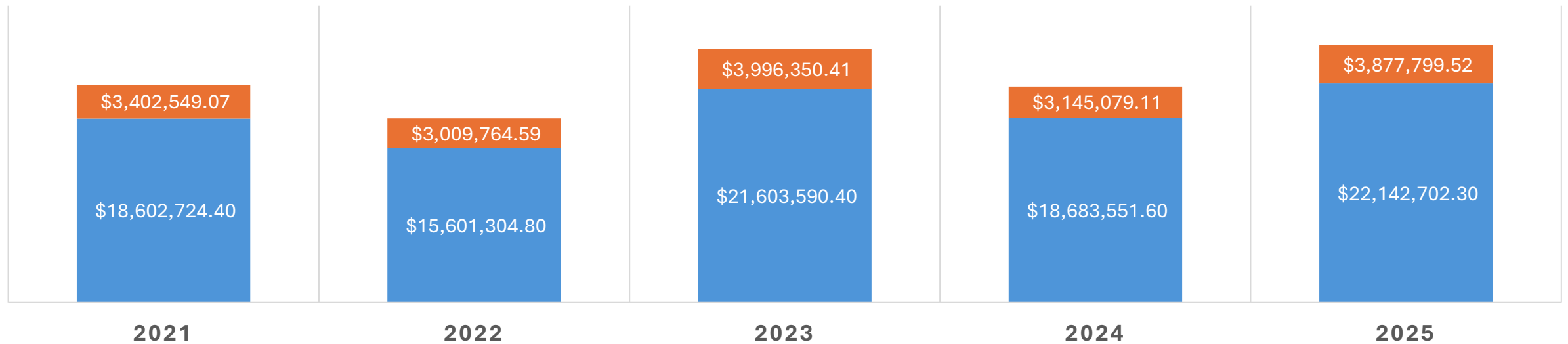


5 YEAR FUNDING TOTALS – ALL ENTITIES



5 YEAR FUNDING TOTALS - ALL ENTITIES

■ FUNDING REQUESTED ■ NON DISCOUNT SHARE



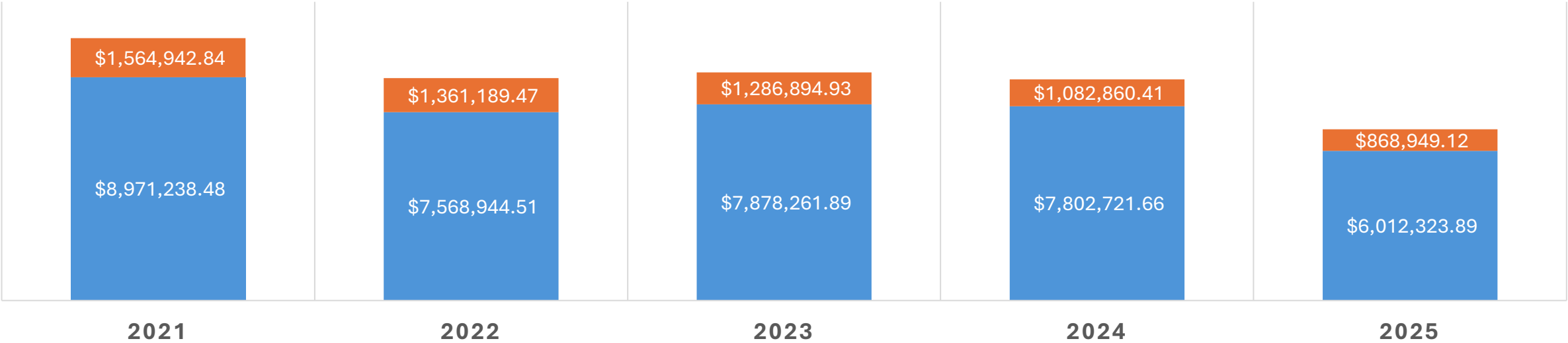


CATEGORY 1 WV SCHOOL DISTRICTS FUNDING COMMITMENT VS NON-DISCOUNT SHARE



CATEGORY 1 - WV SCHOOL DISTRICTS

■ Total Funding Commitment ■ Non-Discount Share





CATEGORY 2 – WV SCHOOL DISTRICTS

FUNDING COMMITMENT VS NON-DISCOUNT SHARE

CATEGORY 2 - WV SCHOOL DISTRICTS

■ Total Funding Commitment ■ Non-Discount Share



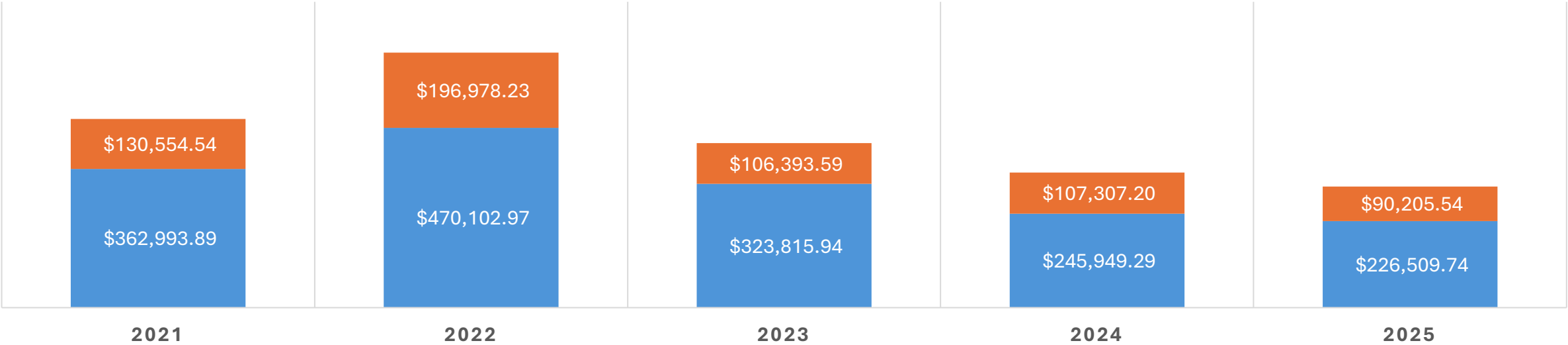


PRIVATE/INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

ALL FUNDING REQUESTED & NON-DISCOUNT COSTS

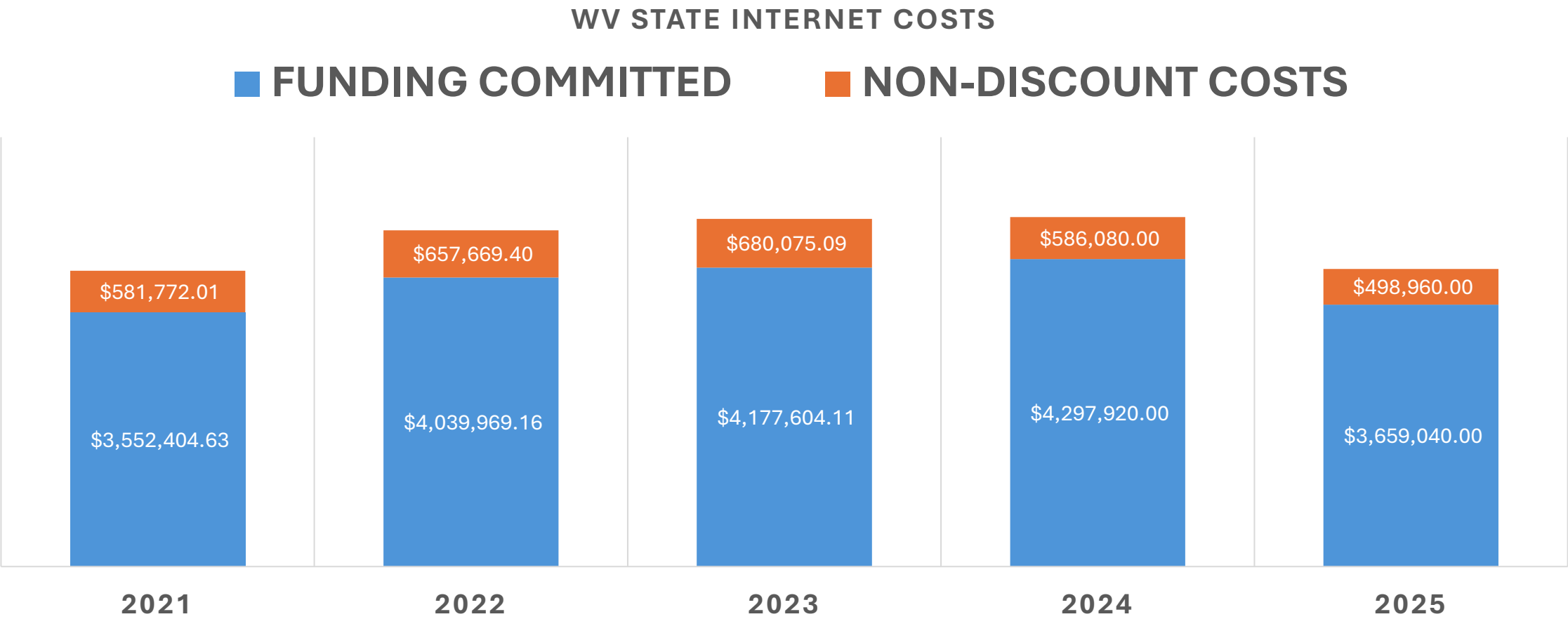
PRIVATE/INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

■ Total Funding Commitment ■ Non-Discount Share





WV CONSORTIUM – INTERNET ACCESS/DATA TRANSMISSION COSTS





E-RATE PROJECTS

- WIFI UPGRADES - SWITCH TO CLOUD BASED CONTROLLERS, UPDATED CABLING TO CAT6 OR HIGHER
- INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES – REPLACING SWITCHES, RACKS, APs AND UPS, UPGRADING COUNTY WANs
- FIBER UPGRADES AND WIRELESS BRIDGES



KANAWHA COUNTY PROJECT

Update school's networks to support 35,000 devices along with adding new network cameras

Updated 50 school at a cost of \$2.5 million dollars
Kanawha County's share - \$300,000



WEBSTER COUNTY PROJECT

- Overhauled network by replacing every rack, antiquated switches, APs and UPS with brand new equipment over 2-year period.
- School no longer have “cable spaghetti” and wireless infrastructure is now fast and functional.
- Wireless bridge installed between high school and field house, so students can receive Internet while at the field.

CABELL COUNTY PROJECT

- Replaced network equipment (switches, APs) and cabling in 3 elementary schools and the new CTE Center
 - \$704,000.00 total cost but with the districts 86% discount rate, county cost was only \$104,326.05
- Special Construction - upgrade WAN to 10GB between schools and the POP – previously 1-2 Gbps at 26 facilities.
 - 90% county discount and the overall cost is a 52% discount from previous

The background of the slide features a large, faint, circular seal of the State of West Virginia. The seal contains the text "SEAL OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA" around the top and "MONTANI SEMPER LIBERI." around the bottom. In the center, it depicts two figures, one holding a rifle and the other a plow, with the date "JUNE 20 1863" below them.

Thank you!

Any Questions?

Mary Aldridge
State E-Rate Coordinator
mary.aldridge@k12.wv.us
304-558-8869 x53284