

E-rate Special Construction
Excess Strands - Cost Allocation Scenarios

Funding Year 2018

Prepared by the [State E-rate Coordinators' Alliance](#)
October 23, 2017

I. LEASED LIT FIBER AND LEASED DARK FIBER

A. Excess Strands for Applicant's Future Use

If the service provider installs additional strands for the applicant's exclusive future use in a leased dark fiber or leased lit fiber special construction project, and if the applicant can show documentation that buying a cable containing the number of strands placed in the fiber system for the applicant's future use is more cost effective than buying a fiber cable with the number of strands the applicant plans to place into service the first year, no cost allocation of the excess strands is required and no other special construction charges would need to be cost allocated.

If the service provider installs excess strands for the applicant's exclusive future use in a leased dark fiber or leased lit fiber special construction project where the excess strands will remain dormant until they are lit for the applicant in the future, and if the applicant cannot show that it is not more cost effective than buying the exact number of fiber strands being lit in the first year, the applicant must cost allocate the costs associated with the excess strands only. No other special construction charges would need to be cost allocated.

B. Excess Strands for Service Provider's Future Use

For lit services special construction and leased dark fiber special construction, if the service provider wishes to place extra strands in the build for its own use, the E-rate applicant must cost allocate the cost of the service provider-owned extra strands, as well as all incremental costs of those extra strands from the special construction E-rate funding request. It is not a pro-rata share, but an incremental cost calculation that must be backed by detailed documentation.

Example 1 from Funding Year 2018 USAC Fiber Training Slides applies:

COST-ALLOCATION: FIBER EXAMPLES

- **Example 1:** Leased lit fiber or leased dark fiber provider installs 12-strands in fiber run to a large school district hub and wants to add 36 additional strands for its own ineligible use, resulting in additional labor costs (e.g., splicing) and plant costs (e.g., larger termination boards, additional handholes).

Result: Cost of 36 additional fiber strands and all associated incremental increases in costs (e.g., the additional labor/outside plant costs) above what would be incurred if only the 12-strands of fiber were installed must be allocated out of the applicant's special construction funding request.

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26

Applicant's should seek documentation from the provider which outlines the added incremental costs attributable to designing, managing and constructing a fiber system with a 48-strand cable instead of a 12-strand cable. Such costs should include (but are not limited to):

- Splice Labor. If any fibers over the applicant's fibers are spliced, the labor for these additional splices must be cost allocated.
- Splice Enclosures are placed to protect splices. If any fibers over the applicant's fibers are spliced and require an enclosure, the enclosures for these additional splices must be cost allocated.
- Fiber Installation Labor. This represents the incremental cost of pulling a larger cable through the buried conduit.
- Structured materials installation. This represents the additional cost of burying a larger conduit to support the additional fibers.

Note that the costs associated with installing a larger cable strand than what is required by the applicant are ineligible and the service provider should not include such costs in their special construction billing

to the applicant but should be prepared to show evidence during PIA review that it did not charge the applicant for these incremental costs.

Figure 1: Here is a table outlining some possible incremental costs:

Item	12 Strand cable construction	48 strand cable construction	Cost Allocation Amount that service provider should remove from the special construction request
Fiber Cable	38 cents per foot	\$1.04 per foot	66 cents per foot
Design and Engineering	\$2.12 per foot	\$2.42 per foot	30 cents per foot to depict additional splices at A and Z locations
Project Management	\$1.18 per foot	\$1.18 per foot	0
Splice labor*	\$11.00 per splice	\$11.00 per splice	\$11 per splice over 12 splices at any splice site
Splice enclosures**	\$205 per enclosure	\$205 per enclosure	\$205 per enclosure for every enclosure over 12
Fiber Patch Panel	\$71.43 per panel	\$218.60 per panel	\$147.17 per panel
Conduit and other structured materials	1.25" conduit required \$1.95 per foot Handhole (40,000 lb rated) \$2695 per unit Fiber Marker \$30 per unit	1.5" conduit required \$2.35 per foot Handhole (40,000 lb rated) \$2695 per unit Fiber marker \$30 per unit	40 cents per foot No cost difference for handhole No cost difference per marker
Fiber Installation Labor ***	25 cents per foot	28 cents per foot	3 cents per foot
Structured Materials Installation	\$2.85 per foot	\$3.10 per foot	25 cents per foot

(conduit, markers, handholes)****			
Markers	Place every 500'	Place every 500'	No cost difference
Handholes	Place every 1000'	Place every 1000'	No cost difference

II. SELF-PROVISIONED (APPLICANT-OWNED) FIBER:

There are different cost allocation rules that apply, depending on whether fiber is only being purchased and used by:

- A) A single, eligible entity (school or library)
- B) A consortium of all eligible entities
- C) A consortium of eligible and ineligible "NON-public sector, municipal entities"
- D) A consortium of eligible and ineligible "public sector, municipal entities"

A) Single, Eligible School or Library

1. If the applicant installs the exact number of fiber strands that they will light in the first year, and no extra fibers are installed, all fiber strands and special construction charges are eligible and no cost allocation is required.
2. If the applicant installs more fiber strands than it will light in the first year, E-rate will pay for the number of strands being lit in the first year, but not the additional strands. No cost allocation is required for the special construction charges. E-rate applicants can only receive E-rate funding for self-provisioned fibers that are lit within the funding year. If they request excess strands that will remain dormant until the applicant lights the excess strands for their exclusive future use, then they would need to cost allocate the cost of the unlit strands in the applicable funding year.

If the applicant can show documentation that buying a cable containing the number of strands placed in the fiber system for the applicant's future use is more cost effective than buying a fiber cable with the number of strands the applicant plans to place into service the first year, no cost allocation for excess strands by the applicant is required.

Example 2 from the Funding Year 2018 USAC Fiber Training Slides applies:

COST-ALLOCATION: FIBER EXAMPLES

- **Example 2:** School district seeks to install 48 strands of fiber in a self-provisioned network, only plans to light 12 strands within the FY. The remaining 36 strands will be reserved for the applicant's exclusive future use.

Result: Applicant must allocate the cost of the excess fiber strands out of the funding request, but no portion of the remaining special construction costs.

Item	12 Strand Cable	48 Strand Cable	Cost Allocation Amount that applicant should remove from the one-time special construction reimbursement request
Fiber Cable	\$.38 per foot	\$1.04 per foot	\$.66 per foot

B) Consortium Comprised of All E-rate Eligible Entities

As with Example 2, all fiber (lit and unlit in the first year) must be dedicated to only eligible entities only and the cost of strands not lit in the first year must be cost allocated.

C) Consortium of Eligible and Ineligible Entities (NON-public sector, municipal)

If the eligible entity purchases and installs fiber for the usage of the eligible entities and the ineligible (non-public sector) entities, the funding request will be denied. E-rate funded self-provisioned fiber is exclusive owned by the E-rate applicant consortium and is for the exclusive use of the E-rate eligible applicant.

In this case, Example 3 from the Funding Year 2018 USAC Fiber Training Slides applies:

COST-ALLOCATION: FIBER EXAMPLES

- Example 3:** School district seeks to install 48 strands of fiber in a self-provisioned network that will be used by the school district, the State Department of Social Services, and a non-profit organization.

Result: Funding request denied. Self-provisioned networks must be owned by eligible schools and libraries, which may not resell E-rate-supported services and products.

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28

D) Consortium of Eligible Entities and Ineligible “Public Sector, Municipal Entities”

For a self-provisioning consortium that includes a public-sector partner, the special construction cost-allocation rules are the same as the Leased Lit Fiber services with special construction or Leased Dark Fiber services with special construction. The cost of the ineligible fibers must be deducted from the funding request, but only the incremental costs related to labor, materials, engineering, project management, and design must be cost allocated.

For the purposes of E-rate, “public sector partner” is defined as health care providers and public sector (governmental) entities, including, but not limited to state colleges and universities, state educational broadcasters, counties and municipalities.

For this type of consortium, Example 4 from the Funding Year 2018 USAC Fiber Training Slides applies:

COST-ALLOCATION: FIBER EXAMPLES

- **Example 4:** The applicant is an E-rate consortium comprised of schools and municipal entities. It seeks to self-provision a network that will be owned entirely by the schools, but will also be used by the municipal entities.

Result: The cost of all fiber strands used by the municipal entities must be allocated out of the funding request, as well as any additional special construction costs incurred because of the installation of those fiber strands (e.g., any increased labor charges, increased plant costs, 100% of the costs of any laterals built to the municipal entities).

Note: The eligible applicant should be prepared to show evidence during PIA review that it has deducted all incremental costs associated with design, engineering, project management, construction, procurement of fiber and procurement of structured materials of the larger strand cable when compared to the costs associated with design, engineering, project management, construction, procurement of fiber and procurement of structured materials of the fiber strand cable only used by the eligible applicant.

APPENDIX B: OSP INSTALLATION SPECIFICATIONS

Material Requirements

- Material will comply with those standards as established by UL or NEMA and shall be commercial grade. All materials will be new and free from defects.
- Selected contractor and its subcontractors will provide all material management to ensure that the project remains on track according to the project milestones,
- All due caution will be exercised in transporting and off-loading all materials to prevent any damage during shipping or placement. Any damage to any materials after their initial receipt and inspection by the respondent will be the sole responsibility of the respondent, who will replace such damaged materials at no additional expense to the district.
- Buried conduit shall be EMT (Electrical Metallic Tubing) multi-duct with at least three innerducts. EMT fitting shall be gland or set screw type, and each conduit shall be equipped with a graduated pull tape or rope.
- Unless specified by right-of-way owner, crossings will be two conduits, PVC-Sch 40 or better.
- The exact requirements for location and type of conduit within the building shall be verified with building owner.
- All Hand Holes shall be (State) DOT approved, 45,000 lb. load rated CDR or comparable enclosures on roadways and railways, and pedestrian rated hand holes for non-roadways and railways.
- Large-radius sweeps shall be provided where required for offset or change in direction of conduit. Bend radius rating of the cable must be adhered to for all conduit bends, pull boxes, and hand holes.
- Fiber must be single-mode with the following specifications:
 - TU-T G.652.C/D compliant
 - Maximum Attenuation @ 1310nm: 0.34 dB/km
 - Maximum Attenuation @ 1385nm: 0.31 dB/km
 - Maximum Attenuation @ 1550nm: 0.22 dB/km
- Connector types should be LC unless otherwise specified by the district.
- Any warranties associated with the fiber and any other outside plant materials must revert to the district as the fiber owner upon completion of construction,

Specifications

Survey

- Comply with all ordinances and regulations. Where required, secure permits before placing or excavating on private property, crossing streams, pushing pipe or boring under streets and railways. Pre-survey shall be done prior to each job.
- Respondent will locate underground lines of third parties in cable route area

Permits and Traffic Control

- The respondent must adhere to all applicable laws, rules and requirements and must apply for permits to place infrastructure per specification per county or city ordinance applicable to

where the infrastructure is being placed.

- All traffic control, in accordance with local, state, county, or permitting agency laws, regulations, and requirements, will be the respondent's responsibility. The respondent's construction schedule will take into consideration sufficient time for the development and approval of a traffic control plan.

Tracer Wire Installation

- Tracer wire shall be placed with all conduit installed unless armored or traceable cable is used. The respondent will provide the tracer wire and shall install, splice and test (for continuity) the tracer wire. If the tracer wire is broken during installation, the wire should be repaired and tested for continuity after repair.
- For multi-duct installation, install a 5/8" X 8" copper clad ground rod in the hand-hole located on public right-of-way. Place a #12 insulated copper locate wire from the ground rod to the fiber optic termination room or to the outside of the building directly below the pull box and terminate on one side of an insulated indoor/outdoor terminal block to the master ground bar in the fiber optic termination room or place a ground rod on the outside of the building. Locate block in an accessible location. This is for "locate purposes only," not for grounding purposes. Note on as-built where ground is placed and tag located wire as "locate wire."

Depth of Burial

- Except where otherwise specified, the cable shall be placed to a minimum depth of 36" along roadways and 24" on private property. Greater cable depth will be required at the following locations:
 - Where cable route crosses roads, the cable shall be placed at a minimum depth of 48" below the pavement or 36" below the parallel drainage ditch, whichever is greater, unless the controlling authority required additional depth, in which case the greatest depth will be maintained.
 - Where cable crosses existing sub-surface pipes, cables, or other structures: at foreign object crossings, the cable will be placed to maintain a minimum of 12" clearance from the object or the minimum clearance required by the object's owner, whichever is greater.

Highway, Railroad, and Other Bored Crossings

- All crossings of state or federal highways and railroads right-of-way shall be made by boring and placing a pipe casing. The cable shall be placed through the pipe casing. Country road and other roadways shall be bored, trenched, or plowed as approved by the appropriate local authority.
- All work performed on public right-of-way or railroad right-of-way shall be done in accordance with requirements and regulations of the authority having jurisdiction there under.
- Respondent shall give all notices and comply with all laws, ordinances, rules and regulations bearing on the conduct of the Work as drawn.
- Where the cable route crosses railroad right-of-way, the cable shall be placed at a minimum

depth of 60" below the railroad surface or 36" below the parallel drainage ditch, whichever is greater, unless the controlling authority requires additional depth, in which case the greatest depth will be maintained.

Cable Markers

- Cable markers shall be placed within 48 hours of cable installation. Unless the right-of-way or property owner specifies otherwise, cable markers shall be placed at all change in directions, splices, fence line crossings, at road and stream crossings, and other points on the route not more than 1,000 feet apart.
- In addition, on highway right-of-way, the markers shall be located at the highway right-of-way line. Markers shall always be located so that they can be seen from the location of the cable.

Hand Holes

- Hand holes will be placed in accordance with standard industry practice following the specifications provided in the construction plans, typical drawings, and detail drawings. Special attention and planning must be exercised to ensure accessibility by other groups after construction has been completed.
- All hand holes unless otherwise stipulated by the drawings will be buried with 12" to 18" of cover at final grade.
- Immediately after placement, the soil around and over the hand hole will be tamped and compacted. Should any washouts occur, the respondent will be responsible for correcting the problem immediately without additional cost to the district.
- After cable placement, all ducts will be sealed.
- All splice hand holes/manholes will be grounded
- A minimum of 100' coil of cable shall be left in each hand hole/building for splicing use.

Splicing

- Fiber to fiber fusion splicing of optical fibers at each point including head ends is required.
- Complete testing services, such as end to end, reel testing, and splice loss testing, ORL, power meter/laser source testing and WDM testing is required.
- Individual splice loss will be 0.10 dB for single-mode unless after 3 attempts these values cannot be achieved, then the fibers will be re-spliced until a splice loss within 0.05 dB of the lowest previous attempts is achieved. Splice loss acceptance testing will be based on the fusion splicer's splice loss estimator.
- All cables to buildings shall be fusion spliced within a minimum of 50' of entering a building at a location to be determined by the owner with an existing single mode fiber and terminated at customer's rack.

Aerial Plant

- District is open to aerial fiber runs using existing utility poles, but respondent must adhere to pole owners' requirements for clearances, spans, grounding, guys and attachments.

Testing Cable

- The respondent shall be responsible for on-reel verification of cable quality prior to placement.
- Completed test forms on each reel shall be submitted to the district.
- Respondent assumes responsibility for the cable after testing. This responsibility covers all fibers in the cable.
- The respondent shall supply all tools, test equipment, consumables, and incidentals necessary to perform quality testing.
- The cable ends shall be sealed upon completion of testing.
- In addition to splice loss testing, selected respondent will perform end-to-end insertion loss testing of single-mode fibers at 1310 nm and 1550 nm from one direction for each terminated fiber span in accordance with TIA/EIA-526-7 (OFSTP 7). For spans greater than 300 feet, each tested span must test to a value less than or equal to the value determined by calculating a link loss budget.

Restoration

- All work sites will be restored to as near their original undisturbed condition as possible, all cleanup will be to the satisfaction of the district and any permitting agencies.
- Respondent shall provide a brief description of restoration plan in the response, with the expectation that a more detailed restoration plan will be delivered prior to construction beginning.
- Work site restoration will include the placement of seed, mulch, sod, water, gravel, soil, sand, and all other materials as warranted.
- Backfill material will consist of clean fill. Backfilling, tamping, and compaction will be performed to the satisfaction of the district, the representative of any interested permitting agency, and/or the railroad representative.
- Respondent will be responsible for any restoration complaints arising within one year after the district's final acceptance.
- Excess material will be disposed of properly.
- Debris from clearing operations will be properly disposed of by the respondent/subcontractors as required by permitting agencies or the railroad. Railroad ties, trees, stumps or any foreign debris will be removed, stacked, or disposed of by the respondent as per requirements by other interested permitting agencies, and/or the district.
- Road shoulders, roadbeds, and railroad property will be dressed up at the end of each day. No payment for installation will be permitted until cleanup has been completed to the satisfaction of any permitting agencies, and/or the district.
- Site clean-up will include the restoration of all concrete, asphalt, or other paving materials to the satisfaction of the other interested permitting agencies, and/or the district.

Documentation

As-built drawings will include:

- Fiber cable routes
- Drawings, site drawings, permit drawings, and computerized design maps and electronically stored consolidated field notes for the entire route must include:
 - Verification of as-built and computerized maps
 - Splicing locations
 - Optical fiber assignments at patch panels
 - Optical fiber assignments at splice locations
 - Installed cable length
 - Date of installation
 - Aerial installation documents should include
 - Pole attachment inventories
 - Pole attachment applications
 - Pole attachment agreements between respondent and other utilities
 - GPS points of reference for utility poles
 - Photo images of poles to which fiber is attached
 - Underground installation documents should include
 - Conduit design and detailing
 - Manhole detailing
 - Preparation of all forms and documentation for approval of conduit construction and/or installation,
- Fiber details will include:
 - Manufacturer
 - Cable type and diameter
 - Jacket type: single mode
 - Fiber core and cladding diameter
 - Fiber attenuation per kilometer
 - Fiber bandwidth and dispersion
 - Index of refraction
- OTDR documentation will include:
 - Each span shall be tested bi-directionally from endpoint to endpoint.
 - Each span's traces shall be recorded and mapped. Each splice loss from each direction and the optical length between splices as well as any of the information required by Span Map.
 - Reel acceptance
 - Individual fiber traces for complete fiber length
 - Paper and computer disk records of all traces
 - Losses of individual splices
 - Anomalies
 - Wavelength tests and measurement directions
 - Manufacturer, model, serial number, and date of last calibration of OTDR
- Power Meter documentation will include:
 - Total link loss of each fiber
 - Wavelengths tested and measurement directions
 - Manufacturer, model, serial number, and date of last calibration for all equipment used

Specifications in this document are not meant to supersede state law or industry standards. Respondents shall note in their response where their proposal does not follow the requested specification to comply with state law or industry standard. The following standards are based upon the *Customer-Owned Outside Plant Design Manual* (CO-OSP) produced by BICSI, the *Telecommunications Distribution Methods Manual* (TDMM) also produced by BICSI, ANSI/TIA/EIA and ISO/IEC standards, and NEC codes, among others.

It is required that the respondent be thoroughly familiar with the content and intent of these references, standards, and codes and that the respondent be capable of applying the content and intent of these references, standards, and codes to all outside plant communications system designs executed on the behalf of the district.

Listed in the table below are references, standards, and codes applicable to outside plant communications systems design. If questions arise as to which reference, standard, or code should apply in a given situation, the more stringent shall prevail. As each of these documents are modified over time, the latest edition and addenda to each of these documents is considered to be definitive.

Table 1 — References, Standards, and Codes

Standard/Reference	Name/Description
BICSI CO-OSP	BICSI Customer-Owned Outside Plant Design Manual
BICSI TDMM	BICSI Telecommunications Distribution Methods Manual
BICSI TCIM	BICSI Telecommunications Cabling Installation Manual
	Customer-Owned Outside Plant Telecommunications Cabling Standard
TIA/EIA - 568	Commercial Building Telecommunications Cabling Standard
TIA/EIA - 569	Commercial Building Standard for Telecommunication Pathways and Spaces
TIA/EIA - 606	The Administration Standard for the Telecommunications Infrastructure of Commercial Buildings
TIA/EIA - 607	Commercial Building Grounding and Bonding Requirements for Telecommunications
TIA/EIA - 455	Fiber Optic Test Standards
TIA/EIA - 526	Optical Fiber Systems Test Procedures
IEEE 802.3 (series)	Local Area Network Ethernet Standard, including the IEEE 802.3z Gigabit Ethernet Standard
NEC	National Electric Code, NFPA
NESC	National Electrical Safety Code, IEEE
OSHA Codes	Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1910 - General Industry, and 1926 - Construction Industry, et al.

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If the service provider installs excess strands for the applicant's exclusive future use in a leased dark fiber or leased lit fiber special construction project where the excess strands will remain dormant until they are lit for the applicant in the future, and if the applicant cannot show that it is not more cost effective than buying the exact number of fiber strands being lit in the first year, the applicant must cost allocate the costs associated with the excess strands only. No other special construction charges would need to be cost allocated.

B. Excess Strands for Service Provider's Future Use

For lit services special construction and leased dark fiber special construction, if the service provider wishes to place extra strands in the build for its own use, the E-rate applicant must cost allocate the cost of the service provider-owned extra strands, as well as all incremental costs of those extra strands from the special construction E-rate funding request. It is not a pro-rata share, but an incremental cost calculation that must be backed by detailed documentation.

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- **Splice Enclosures** are placed to protect splices. If any fibers over the applicant's fibers are spliced and require an enclosure, the enclosures for these additional splices must be cost allocated.
- **Fiber Installation Labor.** This represents the incremental cost of pulling a larger cable through the buried conduit.
- **Structured materials installation.** This represents the additional cost of burying a larger conduit to support the additional fibers.

Note that the costs associated with installing a larger cable strand than what is required by the applicant are ineligible and the service provider should not include such costs in their special construction billing to the applicant but should be prepared to show evidence during PIA review that it did not charge the applicant for these incremental costs.

Figure 1: Here is a table outlining some possible incremental costs:

Item	12 Strand cable construction	48 strand cable construction	Cost Allocation Amount that service provider should remove from the special construction request
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<i>Splice labor*</i>	<i>\$11.00 per splice</i>	<i>\$11.00 per splice</i>	<i>\$11 per splice over 12 splices at any splice site</i>
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<i>Fiber Patch Panel</i>	<i>\$71.43 per panel</i>	<i>\$218.60 per panel</i>	<i>\$147.17 per panel</i>
<i>Conduit and other structured materials</i>	<i>1.25" conduit required</i> <i>\$1.95 per foot</i> <i>Handhole (40,000 lb rated)</i> <i>\$2695 per unit</i> <i>Fiber Marker \$30 per unit</i>	<i>1.5" conduit required</i> <i>\$2.35 per foot</i> <i>Handhole (40,000 lb rated)</i> <i>\$2695 per unit</i> <i>Fiber marker \$30 per unit</i>	<i>40 cents per foot</i> <i>No cost difference for handhole</i> <i>No cost difference per marker</i>
<i>Fiber Installation Labor ***</i>	<i>25 cents per foot</i>	<i>28 cents per foot</i>	<i>3 cents per foot</i>
<i>Structured Materials Installation (conduit, markers, handholes)****</i>	<i>\$2.85 per foot</i>	<i>\$3.10 per foot</i>	<i>25 cents per foot</i>
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