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FY 2022 Application Window

The FY 2022 Form 471 Application Window opened on **Wednesday, January 12, 2022**, at 12:00 noon EST and will close on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. EDT.

Funding Status for 2021-2022

E-Rate:

Wave 40 for FY 2021 was released on Thursday, January 13th, for a total of $32.7 million, none for North Carolina applicants. Cumulative commitments are now $2.57 billion including $84.6 million for North Carolina. Nationwide, USAC has now funded 98% of the FY 2021 applications representing 92% of the requested funding.

ECF:

Wave 7 was released on January 10th for a total of $361 million including $10.1 million for 28 North Carolina applicants. Cumulative ECF commitments are now $4.19 billion including $137 million for North Carolina. Unlike E-rate, for which funding waves are issued weekly, ECF funding waves are being released roughly once a month. ECF invoice payments, also issued in waves, appear to be issued more frequently. Authorized disbursements as of last Friday totaled $101 million, unchanged for the last two weeks.

FCC Finalizes ACP Order

Last Friday, the FCC formally adopted a Report and Order and Further Notice that provides detailed guidance for the Affordable Connectivity Program ("ACP"). As we've discussed, this $14.2 billion federal program offers low-income households discounts on their internet service bills and an opportunity to receive a discount on a computer or tablet from participating providers.

Although the FCC's adoption was [announced](#) last week, we do not expect the full Order to be released until later this week. We expect the Order to track the draft version released two weeks ago, as discussed in our [newsletter of January 10th](#).

Updates and Reminders

Upcoming Dates:

January 18	USAC Competitive Bidding (Form 470) and Guiding Statements Overview webinar ([register](#)).
January 20	USAC Service Provider Selection and Form 471 webinar ([register](#)).
January 21	Form 486 deadline for FY 2021 covering funding committed in Wave 24. More generally, the Form 486 deadline is 120 days from the FCDL date or from the service start date (typically July 1st), whichever is later. Upcoming Form 486 deadlines are:

Wave 25	01/28/2022
Wave 26	02/04/2022
Wave 27	02/11/2022
Wave 28	02/18/2022

January 28	Invoice filing deadline for FY 2019 and FY 2020 non-recurring services.
February 17	FCC comments due on the Future of the Universal Service Fund Notice of Inquiry ([FCC 21-127](#)) (see our [newsletter of December 20th](#)). Reply comments are due March 17th. Note: These are new comment deadlines based on the recent FCC extension order ([DA 22-6](#)).
February 25	Extended invoice filing deadline for FY 2020 recurring services.
March 22	FY 2022 Form 471 Application Filing Window closes at 11:59 p.m. EDT.

Universal Service Monitoring Report for 2021:

The FCC has released the 2021 version of the [Universal Service Monitoring Report](#). The annual report summarizes the four Universal Service Fund ("USF") programs — including E-rate — and the methods used to fund them. The data provided on E-rate (pp. 47-50) includes the following tables:

Table 4.1 Schools and Libraries Funding Commitments and Disbursements by Applicant Type and Year for funding years 1998–2020.

Table 4.2 Schools and Libraries Funding Commitments and Disbursements from Program Inception through June 30, 2021 by State and Applicant Type.

Note: Total funding over the period for North Carolina is reported as:

Commitments	$1.54 billion
Disbursements	$1.27 billion

USAC ECF Newsletter dated January 11 – No New Information

Aside from announcing Wave 7 ECF funding, that was released on January 10th, USAC's Emergency Connectivity Fund Program Newsletter of January 11, 2022 repeats the same information covered in the previous ECF newsletter of January 4th.