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FY 2022 Application Window

The FY 2022 Form 471 Application Window will close on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. EDT. February 22nd was the last possible day to file a Form 470 for FY 2022 and still meet the required 28-day posting requirement.

Funding Status for 2021-2022

E-Rate:

Wave 46 for FY 2021 was released on Thursday, February 24th, for only \$1.77 million, none for North Carolina applicants. Cumulative commitments are now \$2.61 billion including 84.4 million for North Carolina. Nationwide, USAC has now funded 98.5% of the FY 2021 applications representing 93.2% of the requested funding.

ECF:

Wave 10 was [released](#) on February 23rd for a total of \$86.2 million including \$1.45 million for seven North Carolina applicants. Cumulative ECF [commitments](#) are \$4.54 billion including \$148 million for North Carolina. Nationwide, USAC has funded 88.6% of filed applications. Authorized disbursements as of last Friday totaled \$283 million.

FCC Extends ECF Service Delivery Deadline to June 30, 2023

Responding quickly to the request of ECF stakeholders (see our [newsletter of February 14th](#)), the FCC issued an Order ([DA 22-176](#)) last week extending the service delivery deadline for first and second window ECF applicants from June 30, 2022, to June 30, 2023. The service delivery extension applies to both internet services and connected devices. We applaud the FCC for making this swift and beneficial decision for applicants nationwide.

Important exception: The service delivery extension does not apply to funding for the construction of new networks or the provision of customer premises equipment for datacasting services. The service delivery deadline for either of these two rarely requested services remains one-year from the FCDL approval date.

By extending the service delivery deadline one year, the FCC is assuring that ECF applicants funded for twelve months of recurring internet services not fully utilized by June 30, 2022, or for equipment purchases stalled because of supply chain problems will be able to fully utilize their approved funding. The extension of the service delivery deadline to June 30, 2023, will also extend the invoice deadline for all these funding requests to August 29, 2023.

The FCC's extension order recognizes that some applicants may have already reduced their funding requests, perhaps due to funding decision delays, because of the perceived inability to fully use their funding by June 30, 2022. So as not to penalize those applicants now that the service deadline has been extended, the FCC indicated that such applicants may submit waivers "asking that the voluntarily reduced funds be restored to those funding requests and subject to the updated June 30, 2023, service delivery date."

Updates and Reminders

Upcoming Dates:

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| March 4 | Form 486 deadline for FY 2021 covering funding committed in Wave 30. More generally, the Form 486 deadline is 120 days from the FCDL date or from the service start date (typically July 1 st), whichever is later. Upcoming Form 486 deadlines are:
<table><tbody><tr><td>Wave 31</td><td>03/11/2022</td></tr><tr><td>Wave 32</td><td>03/18/2022</td></tr><tr><td>Wave 33</td><td>03/24/2022</td></tr></tbody></table> | Wave 31 | 03/11/2022 | Wave 32 | 03/18/2022 | Wave 33 | 03/24/2022 |
| Wave 31 | 03/11/2022 | | | | | | |
| Wave 32 | 03/18/2022 | | | | | | |
| Wave 33 | 03/24/2022 | | | | | | |
| March 16 | FCC comments due on the Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the Affordable Connectivity Program ("ACP") (FCC 22-2). Reply comments are due April 15 th . See FCC Public Notice (DA 22-152). | | | | | | |
| March 22 | FY 2022 Form 471 Application Filing Window closes at 11:59 p.m. EDT. | | | | | | |
| March 28 | FCC comments due on the FCC's proposal to create an E-rate competitive bidding portal (FCC 21-124). Reply comments are due April 27 th . | | | | | | |

USAC ECF Newsletter dated February 22 – Little New

[USAC's Emergency Connectivity Fund Program Newsletter of February 22, 2022](#), notes the FCC's ECF service delivery extension decision, discussed in more detail above, and repeats the reimbursement reminders from the previous week.

Newsletter information and disclaimer: This newsletter may contain unofficial information on prospective E-rate developments and/or may reflect E-Rate Central's own interpretations of E-rate practices and regulations. Such information is provided for planning and guidance purposes only. It is not meant, in any way, to supplant official announcements and instructions provided by USAC, the FCC, or NCDPI.

Additional North Carolina specific E-rate information is available through our Web site — <http://www.e-ratecentral.com/us/stateInformation.asp?state=NC>. Note that this site provides easy access to formatted North Carolina applicant E-rate histories via the Billed Entity Number (“BEN”) search mechanism in the upper left-hand corner. Detailed information can be obtained by “drilling down” using the links for specific funding years and individual FRNs.

If you have received this newsletter from a colleague and you would like to receive your own copy of the North Carolina E-Rate Forum, send an email to join-ncerate@lists.dpi.state.nc.us. Please include your name, organization, telephone, and e-mail address.

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