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Funding Status for E-Rate and ECF

E-Rate for FY 2022:

Wave 13 for FY 2022 was issued on Thursday, July 14th, for \$63.7 million including \$1.30 million for six North Carolina applicants. . Cumulative commitments to date are \$2.05 billion including \$52.4 million for North Carolina. Nationwide, USAC has funded 92.3% of the FY 2022 applications representing 65.8% of the requested funding.

ECF for 2021-2023:

Wave 18 for ECF-1/2 and Wave 3 for ECF-3 was [issued](#) July 13th for \$262 million, largely for ECF-3 applications. Funding included \$2.16 million for nine North Carolina applicants. . Total commitments are \$5.56 billion including \$154 million for North Carolina. Nationwide, USAC has funded 68.1% of applications filed in all three ECF windows. Authorized disbursements as of last Friday totaled \$1.31 billion.

CoSN's 2022 Student Home Connectivity Study

Last week, the Consortium for School Networking (“CoSN”) released the [2022 Student Home Connectivity Study](#), its second report on students’ at-home internet connectivity. The study aims to address how internet speeds compare during school hours versus outside of school hours; whether students are still logging in to school devices and applications outside of school hours; and what improvements have been made to ensure greater internet access and connectivity for all students. Key findings from the 2022 Student Home Connectivity Study include:

1. Addressing insufficient home internet connectivity must continue to be a priority for educators and policymakers. Although students have returned to school, there was more internet traffic outside of school hours than there was during school hours.
2. Students experience significantly slower network speeds outside of school hours than during school hours.

3. Students are experiencing slightly improved network performance and faster internet speeds outside of school hours this past school year (2021-2022) compared to the previous year.
4. There remain ongoing gaps in network performance and internet speeds at all grade levels for students connecting from outside the school, with approximately one-third of high school students experiencing Far Below or Below Guidelines for connectivity from home.
5. Large disparities persist among student subgroups around home connectivity, particularly by ethnicity and socioeconomically disadvantaged students.

It would be interesting to know — perhaps if the study is updated next year — the impact that ECF funding has made in home connectivity for students attending participating schools and districts. We would expect the difference to be significant and to provide a clear rationale for ECF program continuation.

Updates and Reminders

Upcoming Dates:

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|-------------|---|---------|------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|
| July 21 | USAC invoice training session (register). | | | | | | |
| July 22 | Form 486 deadline for FY 2021 covering funding committed in Wave 50. 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 border="0" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>Wave 51</td> <td>07/29/2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wave 52</td> <td>08/05/2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wave 53</td> <td>08/18/2022</td> </tr> </table> | Wave 51 | 07/29/2022 | Wave 52 | 08/05/2022 | Wave 53 | 08/18/2022 |
| Wave 51 | 07/29/2022 | | | | | | |
| Wave 52 | 08/05/2022 | | | | | | |
| Wave 53 | 08/18/2022 | | | | | | |
| September 9 | Last day of the “Summer Deferral” window giving applicants additional time to respond to PIA E-rate inquiries. No such deferral period is in effect for ECF inquiries. | | | | | | |

USAC ECF Newsletter Dated July 12 — Reimbursement Checklist

[USAC’s Emergency Connectivity Fund Program Newsletter of July 12, 2022](#), repeats all the same information from the previous week’s newsletter.

In the absence of any new newsletter information, we will take this opportunity to direct your attention to the [Requests for Reimbursement](#) section of USAC’s ECF website. Applicants filing BEAR reimbursements should carefully review the [ECF Form 472 Checklist](#) that includes the following:

- Register in the Systems for Awards Management (“SAM.gov”).
 - It is important to register — or renew — your SAM.gov registration before submitting a BEAR.
 - SAM.gov registration is not required if you are using service provider invoicing (“SPI”) on all your ECF funding requests.

- Obtain a Unique Entity Identified (“UEI”). The UEI will be assigned as a part of the SAM.gov registration process.
- Confirm that the same TIN/EIN is used for the SAM.gov registration and the FCC Registration Number (“FCC RN”).
- Complete the ECF Form 472 (“BEAR”) in the [ECF Portal](#).
 - Provide a detailed vendor invoice attachment.
 - Letters, quotes, sales orders, and purchase orders are not acceptable substitutes.
 - Identify the start and end dates of recurring services.
 - Identify the date of delivery (or shipment) of equipment. If not included in the invoice, also upload shipping documentation such as a packing slip.
- Questions or concerns regarding requests for reimbursement can be submitted via the ECF Portal or by calling the ECF Customer Support Center (“CSC”) at (800) 234-9781.

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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