North Carolina E-Rate Forum

Weekly E-Rate Newsletter Vol. 16, No. 30 July 25, 2022

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Funding Status for E-Rate and ECF

E-Rate for FY 2022:

Wave 14 for FY 2022 was issued on Thursday, July 21st, for \$46.2 million including \$3.46 million for four North Carolina applicants. Cumulative commitments to date are \$2.09 billion including \$55.8 million for North Carolina. Nationwide, USAC has funded 92.9% of the FY 2022 applications representing 67.3% of the requested funding.

ECF for 2021-2023:

Total commitments as of Wave 18 for ECF-1/2 and Wave 3 for ECF-3 are \$5.56 billion including \$145 million for Michigan. \$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 as of the last batch of invoices processed June 24th.

Updates and Reminders

Upcoming Dates:

July 29 Form 486 deadline for FY 2021 covering funding committed in Wave 51.

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 52 08/05/2022 Wave 53 08/18/2022

August 5 FCC <u>open meeting</u> to consider, among other topics, an ACP Outreach Grant

Program and a one-year "Your Home, Your Internet Pilot Program" to

increase ACP awareness.

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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 19 — **Nothing New**

<u>USAC's Emergency Connectivity Fund Program Newsletter of July 19, 2022,</u> notes the additional funding from two weeks ago and repeats all the same information from the previous week's newsletter.

USAC E-Rate News Brief Dated July 21 – Invoicing and Form 470 Reminders

<u>USAC's Schools and Libraries News Brief of July 21, 2022</u>, provides the following reminders from last week's USAC invoicing webinar:

- Payments
 - o For Billed Entity Applicant Reimbursement (BEAR) invoicing, the applicant must have **paid the service provider in full before** invoicing USAC.
 - o For Service Provider (SPI) invoicing, the applicant must pay the service provider their non-discounted portion.
- Be sure to invoice USAC only for your Form 471 **approved**, **eligible** equipment and services, in the **correct quantities and rates**, and delivered only to the **approved** Recipients of Service.
- Ensure the upload/download speed is properly listed for the approved FRN. If you are using a flexible bandwidth speed, ensure you are using the **min/max field** on the Form 471.
- Invoiced amounts must be for **actual charges**, not the amount committed through the E-rate program.
- Billed rates must not exceed the contracted rates. USAC will only pay up to the contracted rates.
- **Remove ineligible items** (equipment and services not approved on the Form 471).
- Respond to all outreach **completely and timely** to expedite your payment.
- To **prevent duplicate** invoice submission, establish a process to track/identify each invoice.
- Responding to a certification outreach request **is the applicant's task**. The service provider is added only for their awareness.

Last week's News Brief also provides the following reminders on filing Form 470s for FY 2023:

- To start an FCC Form 470, you must have a <u>One Portal</u> username and password to access EPC.
 - Your organization's profile must be established in EPC before you can file any program form, including a Form 470.
 - You do not need to update your student counts (schools) or square footage (libraries) before filing the Form 470.

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• If you issue a request for proposal ("RFP") and/or RFP documents, you must upload these documents to your Form 470.

Note: E-Rate Central recommends that every Form 470 include an uploaded RFP, if only a simple narrative description of the products and services required. Unless such an RFP is included when the Form 470 is initially filed, the applicant will be unable to append any additional clarifications, such as responses to vendor questions, later in the process without filing an entirely new Form 470.

- Certify the form online in EPC.
- Your receipt notification will appear in your EPC News feed shortly after you certify your form.
- Service providers can view filed Form 470s either through EPC or on the USAC website.

The News Brief also includes reminders to service providers to file their Form 473 Service Provider Annual Certification ("SPAC") forms for FY 2022.

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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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