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## **Funding Status for E-Rate and ECF**

## *E-Rate for FY 2022:*

Wave 27 for FY 2022 was issued on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, for \$42.4 million including \$603 thousand for one North Carolina district. Cumulative commitments to date are \$2.61 billion including \$66.6 million for North Carolina. Nationwide, USAC has funded 96.4% of the FY 2022 applications representing 86.1% of the requested funding.

### ECF for 2021-2023:

Wave 24 for Windows 1 and 2 and Wave 10 for Window 3 were <u>released</u> on Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, for a total of \$77.5 million of which \$77.4 million was for Window 3 applicants. Funding in last week's waves included \$4.37 million for three North Carolina applicants. Total commitments for all three ECF windows are \$6.08 billion including 171 million for North Carolina. Nationwide, USAC has funded 96.4% of the applications from ECF Windows 1 & 2 and 38.0% of applications from ECF Window 3. Total disbursements as of last Friday remain \$1.96 billion.

# **Updates and Reminders**

# **Upcoming Dates:**

October 25 Continuation of USAC's fall virtual E-rate training program (see

registration information on USAC's Webinars page).

Category 2 Budgets

EPC Administrative Window

Post-Commitment Process

November 3

Eligible Services TBA

October 25 EPC administrative window opens to permit E-rate entity updates (see

News Brief below).

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October 28 Invoice deadline for FY 2021 recurring service FRNs and/or the deadline

for requesting a one-time 120-day extension to February 27, 2023.

October 31 The first Form 486 deadline for FY 2022 Waves 1-11, committed before

July 1, 2022.

# *E-Rate Pilot Program for Tribal Libraries:*

The FCC <u>announced</u> a pilot program aimed at helping Tribal libraries apply for E-rate funding during the upcoming FY 2023 funding cycle. The new program, staffed by USAC, will provide one-on-one assistance in all aspects of preparing, applying, and receiving E-rate support. For more information, see <u>Tribal Libraries E-Rate Pilot Program</u>.

Tribal libraries may also want to explore the \$2 billion in broadband connectivity funding available through the NTIA under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act's Tribal Connectivity Technical Amendments portion of the <u>Broadband Equity</u>, <u>Access & Deployment Program</u> ("BEAD").

### **USAC E-Rate News Brief Dated October 20 – Administrative Window and Other Topics**

<u>USAC's E-Rate News Brief of October 20, 2022</u>, provides the following tips for applicants needing to update their EPC entity data in preparation for the FY 2023 application window. The "administrative window" for making these changes opens Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, and will close shortly before the Form 471 window opens in mid-January.

- Update student enrollment and NSLP data (including Category 2 student counts).
- Add new entities if needed.
- Submit any FY 2022 RAL modifications or appeals before updating EPC profiles.
- Small school districts (ten or fewer schools) should consider reporting student counts for Category 2 budget purposes on a school-by-school basis.
- Charter schools associated with a public school district and planning to apply using their own Category 2 budget will need to demonstrate financial and administrative independence.
- Independent schools with only part-time students can count those students as full-time.
- Only five school types may be shown as having zero students but still count as a part of a Category 2 budget calculation.
- Library branches showing zero square footage will not count as a part of a Category 2 budget calculation.
- USAC will hold an EPC Administrative Window Webinar on October 27<sup>th</sup>.

Last week's News Brief also discusses:

• List of USAC's fall training webinars.

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- Review of the extended service delivery deadlines for certain non-recurring FY 2020 and FY 2021 funding requests (see our <u>newsletter of September 26<sup>th</sup></u>).
- Recent EPC updates to the Form 498 for applicants.

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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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