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## FY 2023 Application Window

The FY 2023 Form 471 application window opened last Wednesday and will close on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. EDT — see USAC’s E-Rate Special Edition News Brief Dated January 18<sup>th</sup> referenced below.

## Funding Status for E-Rate and ECF

### *E-Rate for FY 2022:*

Wave 40 for FY 2022 was issued on Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, for \$5.49 million including \$34 thousand for one North Carolina Head Start organization. Cumulative commitments to date are \$2.81 billion including \$69.8 million for North Carolina. Nationwide, USAC has funded 98.2% of the FY 2022 applications representing 94.2% of the requested funding.

### *ECF for 2021-2023:*

Wave 16 for Window 3 was [issued](#) on Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, for \$51.3 million including \$4.03 million for six North Carolina applicants. Total commitments for all three ECF windows are \$6.54 billion including \$186 million for North Carolina. Nationwide, USAC has funded over 80% of the ECF applications representing roughly two-thirds of the requested funding. Window 3 applications are apparently now being funded down to the 65% rural band. Total disbursements as of last Friday were \$2.61 billion.

## Updates and Reminders

### *Upcoming Dates:*

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|------------|--|
| January 24 | USAC Office Hours webinar on service provider selection and the Form 471 ( <a href="#">register</a> ). |
| January 26 | USAC Office Hours webinar on the Eligible Service List ( <a href="#">register</a> ).                   |

- January 27      The Form 486 deadline for FY 2022 Wave 24. More generally, the Form 486 deadline is 120 days from the FCDL date or from the service start date (typically July 1<sup>st</sup>), whichever is later. Upcoming Form 486 deadlines are:
- |         |            |
|---------|------------|
| Wave 25 | 02/03/2023 |
| Wave 26 | 02/10/2023 |
| Wave 27 | 02/17/2023 |
| Wave 28 | 02/24/2023 |
- February 13      Comments due on requests to allow the use of E-rate funds for advanced or next generation firewalls and/or other network security services ([DA 22-1315](#)). Reply comments are due March 30<sup>th</sup>.
- February 28      Last possible date — **please do not wait until then** — to file a Form 470 for FY 2023 in order to: (a) meet the 28-day posting period; (b) close the bidding process and select the winning bidder(s); (c) sign any necessary contract(s); and (d) file the Form 471 application(s), all on the last day of the application window.
- March 28      Close of the FY 2023 Form 471 application window at 11:59 p.m. EDT.

*FCC Decisions on M&C Invoice Errors:*

The FCC released an order ([DA 23-48](#)) granting thirty-seven appeals and one petition for reconsideration for applicants and service providers seeking to correct ministerial or clerical (“M&C”) errors in BEARs or SPIs submitted in the invoice process. In the same order, the FCC also granted seven appeals by applicants or service providers that had filed timely invoices but were later denied funding as a result of failures to submit timely responses (within seven days) to USAC requests for additional information. The FCC decisions dealt with filings as far back as December 2017 involving funding years from 2005 to 2021.

Going forward, with regard to timely-submitted invoices with M&C errors, the FCC directed USAC to treat corrections as appeals rather than requiring the submission of new invoices. As the FCC noted, the problem with requiring new invoices is that many would then have had to be submitted after the associated invoice deadlines, thus requiring FCC waivers as USAC had been advising.

On late or missing invoice information requests, the FCC found that the circumstances in these cases were identical to missed deadlines on Form 471 inquiries and should be handled in a similar manner. Specifically, the FCC found missing information request deadlines should be treated as procedural errors that can be handled by USAC appeals, not as the result of serious failures to adhere to core program requirements or misuse of funds requiring FCC action.

**USAC E-Rate Special Edition News Brief Dated January 18 — FY 2023 Filing Window Open**

[USAC’s E-Rate Special Edition News Brief Dated January 18, 2023](#), announced the opening of the FY 2023 Form 471 application window last Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, urges applicants to file early, and outlines the following steps:

- Gain access to EPC. First-time filers will need to establish an EPC account.
- Review the [FY 2023 Eligible Services List](#).
- File a Form 470.
- File a Form 471.

The News Brief also highlights the following recent or upcoming training opportunities (see News Brief for links to completed sessions or to register for upcoming sessions):

Date and Time	Topic	Audience	Registration Link
Thursday, January 19 (2 p.m. ET)	Competitive Bidding (FCC Form 470) Office Hour	Applicants/Service Providers	<a href="#">Register</a>
Tuesday, January 24 (2 p.m. ET)	Service Provider Selection and FCC Form 471 Office Hour	Applicants/Service Providers	<a href="#">Register</a>
Thursday, January 26 (2 p.m. ET)	Eligible Services List Office Hour	Applicants/Service Providers	<a href="#">Register</a>

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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](mailto:join-ncerate@lists.dpi.state.nc.us). Please include your name, organization, telephone, and e-mail address.*

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