



- FY 2023 Application Window
- Funding Status for E-Rate and ECF
 - E-Rate for FY 2022
 - ECF for 2021-2023
- Updates and Reminders
 - Upcoming Dates
 - FCC Sets E-Rate Funding Cap for FY 2023
 - FCC Announces Targeted Funding for ACP Outreach
 - Gigi Sohn Withdraws FCC Commissioner Nomination
 - Confusing SAM.gov Message Sent in Error

FY 2023 Application Window

The FY 2023 Form 471 application window will close on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. EDT — see [USAC's E-Rate News Brief Dated February 16th](#).

Funding Status for E-Rate and ECF

E-Rate for FY 2022:

Wave 47 for FY 2022 was issued on Thursday, March 9th, for \$7.60 million, none for North Carolina. Cumulative commitments to date are \$2.84 billion including \$71.1 million for North Carolina. Nationwide, USAC has funded 98.6% of the FY 2022 applications representing 96.1% of the requested funding.

ECF for 2021-2023:

Total commitments for all three ECF windows are \$6.62 billion including \$189 million for North Carolina. Nationwide, USAC has funded 85.3% of the ECF applications representing 67.4% of the requested funding. Window 3 applications are being funded down to the 65% rural band. Total disbursements as of the invoice batch, completed March 3rd, were \$2.92 billion.

Updates and Reminders

Upcoming Dates:

March 17 The Form 486 deadline for FY 2022 Wave 31. 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 32	03/23/2023
	Wave 33	03/31/2023
March 28	Close of the FY 2023 Form 471 application window at 11:59 p.m. EDT.	
March 30	Reply 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).	
April 24	Due date for submitting comments on the FCC’s Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 23-10) to further improve E-Rate program rules and encourage greater Tribal participation (and potentially other small applicants) in the E-Rate program (see our newsletter of February 6th). Reply comments are due by May 23 rd .	

FCC Sets E-Rate Funding Cap for FY 2023:

The FCC announced ([DA 23-178](#)) a 7.0% inflation-adjusted increase in the annual E-rate funding cap to \$4.46 billion for FY 2023. The announcement is a necessary, but largely ceremonial, step preceding the beginning of FY 2023 funding waves later this Spring,

As a practical matter, total E-rate funding has remained well below the annual funding cap since first revised upwards to \$3.9 billion for FY 2015 under the Second E-Rate Modernization Order ([FCC 14-189](#)), as shown in the table below. Indeed, actual E-rate funding has been less than \$3 billion for the last seven years — a point stressed in many of the FCC comments recently filed by the many advocates for E-rate eligibility of cybersecurity products and services.

Inflation-Based E-Rate Funding Cap and Usage

FY	Infl. Adj.	Funding Cap	Committed
2015		3,900,000,000.00	3,216,382,174.41
2016	1.0%	3,939,000,000.00	2,767,977,677.20
2017	1.3%	3,990,207,000.00	2,367,609,940.32
2018	1.8%	4,062,030,726.00	2,289,132,318.86
2019	2.2%	4,151,395,402.00	2,367,681,398.98
2020	1.8%	4,226,120,519.00	2,508,624,686.76
2021	1.2%	4,276,833,965.00	2,651,044,694.72
2022	4.2%	4,456,460,992.00	2,840,064,338.45
2023	7.0%	4,768,413,261.00	

FCC Announces Targeted Funding for ACP Outreach:

The FCC announced ([DA 23-194](#)) the award of \$66 million in funding to almost 200 organizations under the Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant Program to help support ACP enrollment assistance. This first series of awards are for the National Competitive Outreach Program (\$60 million for 177 organizations) and the Tribal Competitive Outreach Program. Forthcoming awards will be made for Your Home, Your Internet Outreach Grants and the ACP Navigator Pilot Program Outreach Grants. All four programs are designed to enlist partners to assist the FCC in

implementing innovative strategies to expand discount internet service in historically underserved and unserved communities.

As discussed in earlier newsletters, the ACP program, which provides internet discounts of up to \$30 per month for low-income households, is a means for schools and libraries to ensure home internet access for students and patrons. Although no schools and only four libraries were included in the awards announced last week, we encourage other interested schools and libraries to reach out to grant recipients in their areas to help promote ACP participation.

Outreach awards in Michigan North Carolina New York Nevada New Mexico Texas are shown below.

National Competitive Outreach Program			
Name	City	State	Target Funding Amount
Kramden Institute, Inc	Durham	NC	\$200,000
Executive Office of the State of North Carolina	Raleigh	NC	\$500,000
Goler Depot Street Renaissance Corporation	Winston-Salem	NC	\$300,000
United Way of Forsyth County	Winston-Salem	NC	\$200,000

In addition to these developments last week, FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel [shared](#) an additional Report and Order proposing a second, more targeted Notice of Funding Opportunity to raise awareness and promote the ACP as part of the FCC’s broader consumer outreach efforts.

Gigi Sohn Withdraws FCC Commissioner Nomination:

Gigi Sohn, twice nominated and subjected to Senate hearings to fill the fifth FCC Commission slot, withdrew her nomination after a long-running and contentious battle. From an E-rate perspective, the Administration’s inability to add a third Democratic Commissioner is likely to delay consideration of the E-rate eligibility of Wi-Fi on school buses, as promoted by the Chairwoman. Perhaps more importantly, the continued absence of a fifth Commissioner may slow FCC action on cybersecurity eligibility and, longer-term, on Universal Service Fund reform.

Confusing SAM.gov Message Sent in Error:

SAM.gov registrants reported receiving a confusing email last week reading:

From: donotreply@sam.gov <donotreply@sam.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 3:38 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: SAM.gov | Someone updated the entity registration for {{LBN}}

kamiya@n-messcud.jp updated the SAM.gov entity registration for {{LBN}}, Unique Entity ID {{UEI}}, in SAM.gov on 2023-03-07.

You are receiving this email because you are an Entity Administrator for this entity in SAM.gov.

kamiya@n-messcud.jp identified themselves as not being an employee, officer, or board member of {{LBN}}, and listed contractual agreement dates with this entity of {{CREATED_DATE}} to {{EXPIRATION_DATE}}.

kamiya@n-messcud.jp also listed {{POC}} as the authorized point of contact for {{LBN}}, Unique Entity ID {{UEI}}.

If you think this message has been received in error, please contact the [Federal Service Desk](#).

This email was sent from SAM.gov

The Federal Service Desk website posted the following message indicating that SAM.gov had experienced an unexpected outage and that the system appeared to have generated false emails:

March 8th SAM.gov Emails Not Malicious

Some Entity Administrators received emails from SAM.gov stating that their entity registration had been updated. This message was sent because of a system error. There is no evidence of a scam, phishing attempt, hack, malicious behavior, or a security breach related to this email. [Click Here to Learn More.](#)

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.

In compliance with federal law, the NC Department of Public Instruction administers all state-operated educational programs, employment activities and admissions without discrimination because of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, age, military service, disability, or gender, except where exemption is appropriate and allowed by law.