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## Funding Status for E-Rate and ECF

### *E-Rate for FY 2023:*

USAC issued Wave 43 for FY 2023 on Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, for \$5.32 million including \$913 thousand for one North Carolina applicant. Total funding is now \$2.59 billion including \$84.7 million for North Carolina. At this point, USAC has funded 97.7% of the originally submitted applications representing 93.1% of the dollars requested.

### *ECF for 2021-2023:*

Total commitments for all three ECF windows are \$6.47 billion including \$192 million for North Carolina.

### *E-Rate for FY 2024:*

The Form 471 filing window for FY 2024 opened on January 17<sup>th</sup> and will close on Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, at 11:59 p.m. EDT. Applications marked as “Wave Ready” are likely to be included in the first funding wave for FY 2024 that is expected in late April.

## Updates and Reminders

### *Upcoming Dates:*

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| February 23 | Form 486 deadline for FY 2023 Wave 27. 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 28                      03/01/2024  |
|             | Wave 29                      03/08/2024  |
|             | Applicants missing their Form 486 deadlines should, within a week, receive Urgent Reminder Letters from USAC providing a 15-day grace period.  |
| February 27 | Extended invoice deadline for FY 2022 recurring service FRNs.  |

February 27	Due date for comments on the cybersecurity forms at the OMB.
February 27	Due date for reply comments on the FCC’s cybersecurity pilot NPRM ( <a href="#">FCC 23-92</a> ).
February 28	Last day to file a Form 470 for FY 2024 so as to allow its posting for at least 28 days before the close of the Form 471 application window.  Please note that any applicant waiting until February 28 <sup>th</sup> to file a Form 470 would have to review all bids, select vendors, sign contracts and upload them into EPC, create and file their Form 471, all on March 27 <sup>th</sup> when EPC is likely to be at its busiest. This is <b>NOT</b> a recommended course of action!
March 13	The interim SPIN 143666666 becomes available for use on FY 2024 Form 471 applications (see USAC’s E-Rate News Brief discussed below).
March 27	Close of the Form 471 application window for FY 2024. To be considered as “In Window,” Form 471s must be filed and certified by 11:59 p.m. EDT.
August 29	Invoice deadline for ECF Window 3 applications.

### **USAC E-Rate News Brief Dated February 15 – Form 471 Reminders**

[USAC’s E-Rate News Brief dated February 15, 2024](#), provides reminders and tips related to the FY 2024 application window including the following:

- A tip on dealing with unresponsive bids, “SPAM” bids, and “Robobids.”
- A brief summary of enhanced E-rate benefits for FY 2024:
  - School bus Wi-Fi equipment and services are now E-rate eligible.
  - Libraries (only) no longer have to competitively bid Category 2 equipment with a pre discount cost of \$3,600/library/year or less.
  - Tribal libraries now have a Category 2 discount rate of 90% and a Category 2 budget floor of \$55,000.
- As of March 13<sup>th</sup>, Form 471 applications filed with service providers that have not yet been assigned a SPIN can use the “interim SPIN” 143666666 as a “placeholder.”

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*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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