



- Funding Status for E-Rate and ECF
 - E-Rate for FY 2023
 - ECF for 2021-2023
 - E-Rate for FY 2024
- Updates and Reminders
 - Upcoming Dates
 - February 27th Invoice Corrections
 - ACP Wind-Down Status

Funding Status for E-Rate and ECF

E-Rate for FY 2023:

USAC issued Wave 46 for FY 2023 on Thursday, March 7th, for \$2.59 million, none for North Carolina. Total funding is now \$2.59 billion including \$84.7 million for North Carolina. At this point, USAC has funded 97.9% of the originally submitted applications representing 93.4% 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 closes in two weeks on Wednesday, March 27th, at 11:59 p.m. EDT. As of last weekend, USAC had received almost 14,500 certified applications for FY 2024 requesting over \$800 million. Those reviewed and marked “Wave Ready” are expected to be included in the first funding wave for FY 2024 in late April.

Updates and Reminders

Upcoming Dates:

- | | |
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| March 13 | Interim SPIN 14366666 becomes available for use on FY 2024 Form 471 applications (see USAC’s E-Rate News Brief dated February 15, 2024). This SPIN should be used in very limited circumstances when the service provider does not yet have a SPIN. |
| March 13 | FCC webinar on the ACP Wind-Down process, streamed live on www.fcc.gov/live (see article below). |

- March 14 FCC open meeting at which the Commission is expected to vote on creating a voluntary cybersecurity labeling program for wireless consumer products (see [FCC release](#) and our [newsletter of September 25th](#)). See [FCC-CIRC2403](#) for a draft of the proposed Report and Order.
- March 14 Food Research & Action Center (“FRAC”) webinar entitled “A Deep Dive into the Community Eligibility Provision” (“CEP”) ([Register](#)).
- March 15 Form 486 deadline for FY 2023 Wave 30. 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 31	03/22/2024
Wave 32	03/29/2024
- 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.

February 27th Invoice Corrections:

As mentioned in our last [newsletter of March 4th](#), over 600 BEAR and SPI invoices for FY 2022 recurring services, filed on February 27th, the extended invoice deadline date, were incorrectly denied by USAC. Quickly acknowledging the error, USAC has notified the affected filers that it will be reprocessing these invoices; appeals will not be required. USAC messages to affected filers were as follows:

Notice of Improperly Rejected Invoice

March 4, 2024
Dear
USAC is reaching out to you because our records indicate you are the account administrator and/or invoicing contact associated with the E-Rate Invoice Number(s) listed below. Due to a system issue, USAC improperly denied your timely submitted invoice(s).

Invoice Number	Invoice Nickname	Line Number	FRN

USAC will reprocess your timely filed invoice(s). There is no action required from you at this time.
Once USAC initiates the re-processing of your invoice(s), you will be notified via an EPC notification **with the new invoice number(s)** associated with the re-processed invoice(s). **To eliminate confusion, the new invoice number(s) will reference the nickname you used for the previously submitted invoice(s).**
If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Customer Service Center through EPC or by phone at (888) 203-8100. We apologize for any inconvenience, and we are working to expedite your E-Rate payment.

Note, as shown in the highlighted portion, that the reprocessed invoices will have a new and different invoice number, but will utilize the filer’s same invoice nickname.

Rather than burden USAC with individual appeal withdrawals, applicants (or service providers), who had immediately filed appeals upon receiving denials, need not rush to cancel those appeals. We understand that USAC will formally dismiss such appeals on their own initiative. If handled in the normal way, applicants will be notified of the dismissals via Revised Funding Commitment Decision Letters (“RFCDLs”).

ACP Wind-Down Status:

The FCC issued a [Public Notice](#) last week confirming that, without additional funding from Congress, April 2024 will be the last fully funded month for the Affordable Connectivity Program (“ACP”). Only partial discount funding will be available to ACP subscribers in May. ACP service providers will be required to send program-ending notices to their ACP customers by early next week. The end of ACP-discounted internet services will be a blow to many low-income households and to schools and libraries that have been relying on ACP to support internet access for their students and patrons.

While there remains substantial support within Congress for pending legislation that would provide enough additional funding to extend ACP through the end of 2024, that legislation appears to have stalled. As a practical matter, the passage of that legislation at this point in the FCC’s required wind-down phase would likely create confusion now — and again at the end of 2024 when the process would have to be repeated.

The FCC will be hosting a webinar on the ACP Wind-Down at 1:00 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, March 13th, that will be streamed on www.fcc.gov/live.

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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