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Funding Status

E-Rate for FY 2024:

Wave 12 for FY 2024 was released on Thursday, July 11th, for \$40.8 million including \$341 thousand for five North Carolina applicants. Total funding is now \$1.68 billion including \$54.6 million for North Carolina. At this point, USAC has funded 83.2% of the originally submitted applications, representing 55.1% of the dollars requested.

Updates and Reminders

Upcoming Dates:

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| July 19 | Form 486 deadline for FY 2023 Wave 48. More generally, the Form 486 deadline is 120 days from the FCDL date or the service start date (typically July 1 st), whichever is later. Upcoming Form 486 deadlines are: |
| | Wave 49 07/26/2024 |
| | Wave 50 08/02/2024 |
| | Wave 51 08/09/2024 |
| | Wave 52 08/16/2024 |
| | Wave 53 08/23/2024 |
| | The first Form 486 deadline for FY 2024, for applicants funded on or before July 1 st , will be October 29 th . |
| July 18 | FCC Open Meeting to include consideration of the proposed Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to make off-premises use of Wi-Fi hotspots and wireless internet service eligible for E-rate funding (see draft Order currently on circulation). |
| August 1 | USAC webinar on FCC Form 470/Competitive Bidding (registration). |
| Late August | Current estimate of Form 470 availability for Funding Year 2025. |

August 29 Invoice deadline for ECF Window 3 applications.¹

Corrective Correction: Form 470 Delay for FY 2025

This is the third week in a row that we've written about the availability of the Form 470 for FY 2025. This is another correction, and a welcome one.

Traditionally, USAC updates its Form 470 on July 1st to reflect the next funding year. This gives applicants with long procurement cycles a head start. This year, with the FCC set to vote July 18th on the eligibility of hotspots, effective FY 2025, USAC announced that the FY 2025 Form 470 would not be available until approximately the end of August. This gives the FCC time to formally release the hotspot Order and to have it posted in the *Federal Register* for 30 days before becoming effective. At that point, USAC will be able to include hotspot equipment and services in the Form 470 pulldown menus.

We initially assumed that USAC would keep the existing FY 2024 Form 470 up and running until the FY 2025 version was ready. That would permit applicants seeking bids, for non-hotspot services, to open the FY 2025 competitive bidding processes by including a short narrative statement that this "FY 2024" Form 470 is for FY 2025 products and services. However, USAC had initially taken down the FY 2024 Form 470, so we issued a correction indicating that all applicants seeking to file Form 470s for FY 2025 would have to wait for the new FY 2025 Form 470.

It now appears that USAC has resuscitated the FY 2024 Form 470 for early FY 2025, non-hotspot, use. Just be sure to include a narrative statement that this Form 470 is for FY 2025 products and/or services. Those seeking bids for hotspot equipment and services will be to await formalization of the hotspot Order and the release of the FY 2025 Form 470, hopefully by, at the latest, September.

¹ The government funding bill passed in March 2024, rescinds \$1.768 billion from the ECF program. As a result, the FCC and USAC are now prevented from: processing post-commitment requests to change service providers or invoicing methods; approving a commitment if an appeal or waiver is granted; or making upward commitment adjustments to resolve errors (see [USAC's ECF Newsletter for June](#)).

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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. Please include your name, organization, telephone, and e-mail address.

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