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Funding Status

E-Rate for FY 2025 – Application Window:

Application Window: The Form 471 application window for FY 2025 opened January 15th, and will close on Wednesday, March 26th, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. EDT. Last Wednesday, February 26th was the last date to submit and certify an FCC Form 470 and still wait the minimum 28-day period before submitting and certifying a FY 2025 Form 471 by March 26, 2025, the last date of the application filing window. For additional information on the FY 2025 filing window, including training opportunities, see USAC's [E-Rate News Brief dated February 20th](#).

E-Rate for FY 2024:

Wave 45 for FY 2024 was released on Thursday, February 27th, for \$30.4 million, none for North Carolina. Total funding is now \$2.62 billion including \$73.6 million for North Carolina. Currently, USAC has funded 98.1% of the originally submitted applications, representing 90.3% of the dollars requested.

Cybersecurity Pilot Program – Application Window:

Application Window: The CBR Form 471 application window for the Cybersecurity Pilot Program opens March 18th and will close September 15th. Total pilot funding is capped at \$200 million for 707 applicants. Initial commitments include an estimated \$10.1 million for seventeen North Carolina applicants.

Updates and Reminders

Upcoming Dates:

March 7	FY 2024 Form 486 deadline for Wave 29. The Form 486 deadline is 120 days after the FCDL date, or the service start date (typically July 1 st), whichever is later. The next Form 486 deadlines for FY 2024 are:
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Wave 30	03/14/2025
Wave 31	03/21/2025
Wave 32	03/27/2025

March 18	Opening of the Cybersecurity Pilot Form 471 application window.
March 18	USAC Cybersecurity Pilot Program CBR Form 471 webinar: 3:00-4:00 PM EST Register
March 26	Close of the E-Rate Form 471 application window for FY 2025.
March 26	Oral arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court regarding the constitutionality of the Universal Service Fund (see our newsletter of November 25, 2024).
May 28	Extended invoice deadline for FY 2023 non-recurring service FRNs with approved extensions beyond the original January 28, 2025, deadline.
July 1	Withdrawal deadline for selected Cybersecurity Pilot participants opting not to continue in the Program.
September 15	Close of the Cybersecurity Pilot Form 471 application window and deadline for filing the Form 484 Part 2.

Supreme Court — Again — Rejects Review of NY Broadband Price Cap:

Last December, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to review an affordable broadband internet service plan established by New York State for low-income consumers (see our [newsletter of December 23, 2024](#)). The plan requires NY internet providers to offer qualifying low-income consumers basic internet service plans of either 25 Mbps for \$15 per month or 200 Mbps for \$20 per month. The plan, first proposed in 2021, had been challenged by NY ISPs and their national associations who argued that only the FCC could regulate internet rates and who feared that NY's plan, particularly with the demise of the Affordable Connectivity Program ("ACP") would spread to other states. With the Supreme Court declining to review the case, the NYS broadband cap took effect last January.

Last week, the Supreme Court again rejected a telecom industry bid to reverse the New York State law denying a rehearing request by several groups led by the New York State Telecommunications Association Inc. It will now be interesting to see if other states move forward to adopt their own low-income internet plans.

Senate to Vote This Week to Void FCC Hotspot Order:

Senate Majority Leader John Thune said last week that he planned for the Senate to vote this week on a resolution to repeal the earlier FCC Order making hotspots eligible for E-Rate discounts. As discussed in our [newsletter of January 20th](#), this action would be taken under the auspices of the Congressional Review Act ("CRA") that gives Congress the right to reverse certain actions taken by the previous administration. Use of the CRA to kill hotspots requires a simple majority vote in both houses of Congress. Even without Congressional action, a soon-to-be Republican majority on the FCC would be able to withdraw hotspot eligibility.

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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