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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 this **Wednesday, March 26th, 2025**, at 11:59 p.m. EDT. 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 48 for FY 2024 was released on Thursday, March 20th, for $12.6 million, none for North Carolina.   Total funding is now $2.64 billion including $73.6 million for North Carolina. Currently, USAC has funded 98.2% of the originally submitted applications, representing 91.3% of the dollars requested.

Cybersecurity Pilot Program – Application Window:

Application Window: The CBR Form 471 application window for the Cybersecurity Pilot Program opened on 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 25	USAC Cybersecurity Pilot Program 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).
March 27	FY 2024 Form 486 deadline for Wave 32. The Form 486 deadline is 120 days after the FCDL date, or the service start date (typically July 1st), whichever is later. The next Form 486 deadlines for FY 2024 are:

	Wave 33	04/04/2025
	Wave 34	04/11/2025
	Wave 35	04/18/2025

April 4	USAC Program Integrity Assurance and the Selective Review Process webinar: 2:00-3:00 PM EST	Register
April 11	Comments due on the FCC's "Delete, Delete, Delete" Initiative (DA 25-219).
April 28	Reply comments due on the FCC's "Delete, Delete, Delete" Initiative.
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 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.

FCC Commissioner Starks to Resign:

FCC Commissioner Geoffrey Starks announced last week that he intends to resign "this spring." As the FCC is currently configured, what this would traditionally have meant is that President Trump would nominate a Democratic Commissioner as a replacement for Starks. This would bring the FCC Commission back to full strength with a 3:2 Republican-Democratic split structured as follows:

Republican:	Brendan Carr, Chairman
	Nathan Simington
	Olivia Trusty — nominated, but not yet confirmed
Democratic:	Anna Gomez
	Geoffrey Starks' replacement yet to be nominated

What happens next to the FCC, under the current administration, is anyone's guess. It was made more uncertain last week when President Trump removed two Democratic members of the Federal Trade Commission. As noted in one news report, "Trump may refuse to fill Stark's seat, or select a Democrat more aligned with his administration's telecom priorities, braking with the long-standing tradition of allowing the Senate minority leader to help choose the nominee."

USDA Issues NSLP Eligibility Guidelines for 2025-26:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's ("USDA's") Income Eligibility Guidelines, setting family income thresholds for free and reduced-price lunches, was published in the *Federal Register* last week. Schools and school districts not covered by the Community Eligibility Provision ("CEP")

can now update their family income surveys for the 2025-26 school year. E-Rate Central provides sample income survey letters, updated with the latest guidelines, in both English and Spanish.

USAC E-Rate News Brief Dated March 20th

USAC's E-Rate News Brief dated March 20, 2025, focuses on Wednesday's close of the FY 2025 Form 471 application window. It includes:

- A list of E-Rate tips addressing:
  - Extended hours for the Customer Service Center.
  - Use of the interim SPIN (143666666) for service providers who have not yet received a SPIN.
  - Application assistance for Tribal libraries.

- Last minute filing tips, including:
  - Returning to an incomplete Form 471.
  - Certifying your Form 471.
  - Correcting Form 471 information after certification.
  - Guidance on the advanced installation of non-recurring services.

- What to do if you missed the February 25th deadline for filing a Form 470.

- 2025 E-Rate outreach and training:
  - Upcoming USAC webinars.
  - USAC conference attendance.
  - Training recordings.

- E-Rate program documentation retention requirements.