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Funding Status

E-Rate for FY 2025:

Wave 27 of Funding Commitment Decision Letters (“FCDL”s) for FY 2025 was released on Thursday, October 23rd, for \$52.6 million, including \$16.5 thousand for two North Carolina applicants. Total funding for FY 2025 is \$2.23 billion, including \$49.5 million for North Carolina. Currently, USAC has funded 91.4% of submitted applications, representing 71.6% of the dollars requested.

Cybersecurity Pilot Program:

The Form 471 application window for the Cybersecurity Pilot Program closed on September 15, 2025. Total pilot funding is capped at \$200 million for 690 applicants, including \$7.9 million for fifteen North Carolina applicants. PIA review of Pilot applications has begun — slowly.

FCC, USAC, and the Government Shutdown:

With the government shutdown still in effect, it is worth appreciating the independence of USAC from the FCC. USAC remains in business and fully staffed. From an E-Rate perspective, the most visible aspect of the difference is that USAC continues to issue funding decisions on FY 2025 funding requests and to review and pay BEAR and SPI invoices. The FCC’s activities, by way of contrast, have been sharply curtailed with significant reductions in staffing. That has undoubtedly cut into the processing of FCC E-Rate waivers and appeals, and led to the cancellation of USAC webinars (which require FCC review). More importantly, it has slowed the release of the Eligible Services List for FY 2026 which could delay the opening of the Form 471 application window. Lack of coordination between USAC and the FCC may also be causing delays in the release of Cybersecurity Pilot Program awards.

Updates and Reminders

Upcoming Dates:

TBD Comments on the FCC’s draft [Eligible Service List for FY 2026](#), originally due October 15th, will now be due one business day after the government

shutdown ends. The deadline for reply comments, initially due October 30th, may be rescheduled accordingly.

- TBD The original FCC deadline for nominating six new (or renewed) USAC Board members (see [DA 25-738](#) and our [newsletter of August 25th](#)) was October 20th. This deadline will become one business day after the government shutdown ends.
- October 28 Deadline to submit invoices for FY 2024 recurring services or to request an invoice deadline extension.
- October 29 First FY 2025 Form 486 deadline for applicants funded in Waves 1-10. Thereafter, for a given funding wave, 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 2025 are:
- | | |
|---------|------------|
| Wave 11 | 10/31/2025 |
| Wave 12 | 11/07/2025 |
| Wave 13 | 11/14/2025 |
- October 29-31 [AnchorNets](#): 13th Annual SHLB Conference, Crystal City, VA. E-Rate Central is a Gold-level sponsor of the event.

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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