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## Funding Status

### *E-Rate for FY 2025:*

Wave 30 of Funding Commitment Decision Letters (“FCDL”s) for FY 2025 was released on Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, for \$57.8 million, including \$2.55 million for two North Carolina applicants. Total funding for FY 2025 is \$2.34 billion, including \$52.1 million for North Carolina. Currently, USAC has funded 92.3% of submitted applications, representing 78.0% 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 is proceeding, with some applications reported to be “Wave Ready.” Issuance of the first Funding Commitment Decisions Letters (“FCDLs”), however, will require FCC review.

### *FCC, USAC, and the Government Shutdown:*

The government shutdown officially ended Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. During the shutdown, the FCC had furloughed approximately 80% of its staff. Returning staff may take some time to get back in place. The FCC has already said that it anticipates “complications” as staff returns from the six-week hiatus.

We are unsure of the FCC’s internal priorities for addressing issues that were pending prior to and/or arose during the shutdown. Here, however, is a partial list of the key E-Rate-related tasks that need to be addressed:

- Comments on the FCC’s draft [Eligible Service List for FY 2026](#), originally due October 15<sup>th</sup>, became due on November 14<sup>th</sup>, the first business day following the end of the shutdown. Reply comments will be due two weeks hence on November 28<sup>th</sup>. The FCC’s release of the final version of the ESL, typically issued in December, could be delayed.
- Nominations for six new (or renewed) USAC Board members (see [Eligible Service List for FY 2026](#), and our [newsletter of August 25<sup>th</sup>](#)), originally due October 20<sup>th</sup>, similarly became due on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

- USAC had canceled FY 2026 webinars previously scheduled during the shutdown on the Category Two Budgets, the Administrative Window, the Post-Commitment Process, and Invoicing. We expect that these webinars (requiring FCC pre-review) will be rescheduled.
- As a result of the shutdown, the FCC had not issued a list of streamlined appeal and waiver decisions for the month of October. We would expect that the next set of streamlined decisions will be issued at the end of November, covering decisions from the early part of October and the later part of November.
- Pre-shutdown, USAC had been instructed to issue Funding Commitment Decision Letters (“FCDLs”) canceling all FY 2025 Form 471 applications for hotspots and school bus Wi-Fi (see our [newsletter of October 6<sup>th</sup>](#)). This did not occur during the shutdown, pending FCC review of the denial language for the two sets of services.
- As indicated above, we understand that a number of Cybersecurity Pilot Program Form 471 applications are considered “Wave Ready” by USAC. We assume that the issuance of FCDLs for these applications are pending FCC review.

## Updates and Reminders

### *Upcoming Dates:*

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| November 21 | FY 2025 Form 486 deadline for applicants funded in Wave 14. More generally, the Form 486 deadline is 120 days after the FCDL date, or the Service Start Date (typically July 1 <sup>st</sup> ), whichever is later. The next Form 486 deadlines for FY 2025 are:  |
|             | Wave 15                      11/28/2025   |
|             | Wave 16                      12/05/2025   |
|             | Wave 17                      12/12/2025   |
|             | Wave 18                      12/19/2025   |
|             | Wave 19                      12/28/2025   |
| November 28 | Probable deadline for submitting reply comments on the draft Eligible Services List for FY 2026 (see article above for post-shutdown FCC tasks).  |
| December 17 | Senate Commerce Committee’s FCC oversight meeting with testimony from all three Commissioners. Questioning is expected to focus on Commission actions related to public broadcasting programming and licenses (potentially interesting, but unrelated to E-Rate). |

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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](mailto:join-ncerate@lists.dpi.state.nc.us). Please include your name, organization, telephone, and e-mail address.*

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