



- Funding Status
 - E-Rate for FY 2025
 - Cybersecurity Pilot Program
- Updates and Reminders
 - Upcoming Dates

Funding Status

E-Rate for FY 2025:

For the first time this year, USAC did not issue a FY 2025 funding wave last week. Total funding for FY 2025 stands at \$2.45 billion, including \$53.2 million for North Carolina. Currently, USAC has funded 93.0% of submitted applications, representing 82.0% 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.

After months of PIA inactivity, aside from some reminders to file Form 484 Part 2s, we have recently seen an uptick in inquiries seeking additional details on requested products and services. As discussed in last week’s newsletter, there was a hint in USAC’s most recent [Cybersecurity Pilot Program Newsletter](#) that the first Funding Commitment Decisions Letters (“FCDLs”) will not be released until “early 2026.” Our earlier hope to see the first cyber FCDLs released this year appears to have been overly optimistic.

Updates and Reminders

Upcoming Dates:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 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). |
| December 19 | FY 2025 Form 486 deadline for applicants funded in Wave 18. More generally, 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 2025 are: |
| | Wave 19 12/29/2025 |
| | Wave 20 01/02/2026 |

Wave 21 01/09/2026
Wave 22 01/16/2026

January 1 Happy New Year!
January 15 Projected opening of the FY 2026 Form 471 application window, with a window closing estimated as March 26th.
January 28 Invoice deadline for non-recurring services for FY 2024.

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.

In compliance with federal law, the NC Department of Public Instruction administers all state-operated educational programs, employment activities and admissions without discrimination because of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, age, military service, disability, or gender, except where exemption is appropriate and allowed by law.