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Funding Status – FY 2016 and FY 2017

Wave 34 for FY 2016 was released last Thursday, February 16th, for a total of \$35.1 million — none for North Carolina. Approximately 115 FCDLs were issued in Wave 34. Cumulative national funding through Wave 34 is \$2.19 billion, including \$95.1 million for North Carolina. Overall, 6.6% of all applications remain pending. Wave 35 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, February 23rd.

The FY 2017 application window will open on Monday, February 27th, at 12:00 noon EST and is scheduled to close on Thursday, May 11th, at 11:59 p.m. EDT. **Applicants needing to update their EPC entity profiles for FY 2017 application purposes must complete that process by Sunday, February 26th at 11:59 p.m. EDT.**

Updates on USAC’s E-Rate Productivity Center and Legacy System

Entity Profile Updates:

February 26th is the last day on which applicants can update their EPC entity profiles. As of the next day, USAC will be locking entity profiles for the duration of the application window. Please note that February 26th is a Sunday, a highly unusual occurrence for an E-rate deadline. The last business day to update profiles is Friday, February 24th!

Information on USAC’s rationale for establishing a new entity profile deadline, and on the basic review and update process required by applicants, is available in our [newsletter of February 6th](#). A few additional points should be noted.

1. All fields in an existing entity profile, including the entity’s name, can be edited during the update period. In the past, changes to some of these fields required intervention by USAC’s Client Service Bureau (“CSB”). Changes now take place immediately within EPC. Name and address changes within the legacy [Entity Search](#) database, however, are not shown until the following day.

2. Adding a new entity — most importantly, adding a school to a school district or a library to a library system — requires action by CSB. This can be done via a Customer Service request or a telephone call (888-203-8100). As far as we know, CSB is maintaining normal working hours during the entity update period. This means that **the deadline for adding new entities is currently 8:00 p.m. EST on Friday, February 24th.**
3. Consortia should check the following:
 - a. Confirm that all members are properly linked to the consortium. Once EPC is locked down, it cannot be used to add consortium members. Consortia seeking to add members during the application window lockdown period will require special assistance from CSB.
 - b. Confirm that all school or school district members have updated their own entity profiles. Special attention should be paid to consortium members who are not planning to file individual applications on their own.
4. Information on existing annexes cannot be edited. The only annex operations permitted within EPC are:

Manage Organization Annexes

Would you like to add a new annex or remove an existing annex?

Cancel

Remove Existing Annex

Add New Annex

To correct annex information, remove the existing annex and add the “new” annex.

BEAR PIN Mailings:

Access to the [online BEAR system](#) requires a unique PIN tied to the filer’s email address. New users must first request a PIN from CSB. USAC’s normal process, once a PIN request is approved, is to mail the PIN to the user. Although almost all other E-rate correspondence is electronic, USAC deems the distribution of sensitive PIN information by mail to be more secure.

The problem at the moment, however, is that USAC mails PINs in batches. We understand that the next batch of PIN mailers is scheduled for release on February 27th. This will be awkward for some filers who are trying to meet the February 27th extended deadline for submitting BEAR invoices for FY 2015 recurring services. Mailed PINs won’t be received until a few days later — too late. The only solution at that point will be to appeal to USAC.

A better solution before February 27th — i.e., **this week** — is to call CSB and specifically request that the PIN be emailed.

E-Rate Updates and Reminders

Upcoming 2017 E-Rate Deadlines:

February 23 Form 486 deadline for FY 2016 funding committed in Wave 18. More generally, the Form 486 deadline is 120 days from the FCDL date or the

service start date (often July 1st), whichever is later. This means that Form 486 deadlines for funding commitments received in later waves will follow at roughly one week intervals, including the following February-March deadlines:

Wave 19	02/28/2017
Wave 20	03/07/2017
Wave 21	03/17/2017
Wave 22	03/21/2017
Wave 23	03/28/2017

Applicants missing these (or earlier) deadlines should watch carefully for “Form 486 Urgent Reminder Letters” (actually emails directing the applicants to EPC News Feed items). The Reminders will afford applicants with 15-day extensions from the date of the emails to submit their Form 486s without penalty (see [USAC News Brief of November 4th](#)).

February 26 School and school district deadline for updating EPC profiles in preparation for the FY 2017 application window. USAC will lockdown entity profiles while the application window is open. It is critical for districts to make sure that new schools are added to their EPC profiles by this deadline.

February 27 Extended — and effectively final — invoice deadline assigned to FY 2015 recurring service FRNs for approved IDERs granted last year.

USAC News Brief Dated February 17 – Category of Service Clarifications

USAC’s [Schools and Libraries News Brief of February 17, 2017](#), discusses the two limited waivers of the FY 2017 Eligible Services List (“ESL”) recently granted by the FCC. The waivers affect applicants dealing with connections between multiple buildings on contiguous properties and/or between schools sharing the same building. For additional information, see our [newsletter of February 13th](#).

The News Brief also reminds applicants of the February 26th deadline for updating entity profile information (as discussed above in greater detail).

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 the SLD, 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.

For further information, follow E-Rate Central on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn.   

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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