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Funding Status – FY 2018

USAC issued Wave 19 for FY 2018 on Friday, August 17th for \$36.8 million. Cumulative funding as of Wave 19 is \$1.61 billion, including \$69.2 million for North Carolina.

E-Rate Updates and Reminders

Upcoming 2018 E-Rate Dates:

August 29 FY 2017 Form 486 deadline for funding committed in Wave 52. Other upcoming Form 486 deadlines include:

Wave 53	(NA – wave canceled)
Wave 54	09/10/2018
Wave 55	09/12/2018

Applicants missing these (or earlier) deadlines should watch carefully for “Form 486 Urgent Reminder Letters” in EPC. The Reminders will afford applicants with 15-day extensions to submit their Form 486s without penalty.

The first Form 486 deadline for FY 2018 is not until October 29, 2018.

August 22 USAC webinar on [Understanding Competitive Bidding](#).

August 29 Deadline to submit comments on the FCC’s Proposed Eligible Services List for FY 2019 ([DA 18-789](#)). Reply comments are due September 13th.

September 7 Last day of the PIA summer deferral period. Application reviews placed on hold during this period will be reactivated.

September 10 Deadline to submit comments on the Department of Agriculture’s Rural Utilities Service proposal for the implementation of its \$600 million pilot broadband program ([e-Connectivity Pilot](#)). Coincidentally, this is the same deadline for the submission of comments on the FCC’s \$100 million pilot broadband telehealth program ([FCC 18-112](#)). Neither pilot program is directly related to E-rate, but both are designed to promote broadband in rural areas.

USAC News Brief Dated August 17 – Federal Debt and Returning Funds

[USAC's Schools and Libraries News Brief of August 17, 2018](#), discusses two funding process topics, both partially related to the change made earlier this year to process E-rate payments through the U.S. Treasury rather than through commercial banks. Both situations addressed in the News Brief are fortunately not common but are important to understand if they do occur.

How Debt to the Federal Government Affects E-Rate Participants:

E-rate applicants and service providers owing money to the federal government may find that their E-rate invoices will be affected. How this occurs depends upon the nature of the federal debt. In particular:

1. Generally, if an applicant or service provider is delinquent on an E-rate debt, perhaps as a result of a Recovery of Improperly Disbursed Funds (“RIDF”), or is in [Red Light](#) status, USAC will simply withhold any disbursements until the debt is settled.
2. In the special case of E-rate service providers who are also USF contributors, but are delinquent on those USF payments, USAC will net out any delinquent payments against pending invoices.
3. Invoices approved by USAC are paid by the U.S. Treasury. If any outstanding debt is owed to other federal governmental agencies, however, the U.S. Treasury will withhold such debt from the payment. Should this occur, E-rate applicants may get conflicting signals — notices of successful payments from USAC, followed by notices of offsetting debt payments from the U.S. Treasury.

Most E-rate applicants are familiar with USAC payment letters, but few — fortunately — have seen the “What Happened to My Payment?” letters from the U.S. Treasury. If only for curiosity sake, a redacted example of such a letter follows this article.

Reminders on Returning Funds to USAC:

If funds need to be returned to USAC, payments must be made electronically to the U.S. Treasury. As examples of common situations in which a return of funds are required, the News Brief cites funds received in error or — in somewhat unfamiliar language — “a discrepancy between your projected support amount and the actual support disbursed.” As best we can determine, this language comes from the return of funds instructions for other Universal Service Fund (“USF”) programs. For E-rate purposes, better examples are contained in the [Returning Funds to USAC](#) section of USAC's Schools & Libraries website.

To actually make a return of funds payment, go to the [Payments](#) section, choose the right USF program (see below), and follow the instructions.

Make a payment

Return program funding or make a contributor payment if you have an inactive Filer ID using this form.

Note: If you're a contributor with an active E-File account, [make a payment from your account](#)

What would you like to do?

- Make a universal service Fund Payment (Contribution)
- Return program funding

Which program do you want to return funding to?

- High Cost
- Lifeline
- Rural Health Care (COMAD or Voluntary Return Funds)
- Schools and Libraries (COMAD or Voluntary Return Funds)

Continue

U.S. Department of the Treasury
Bureau of the Fiscal Service
P.O. Box 1686
Birmingham, AL 35201-1686



PLEASE RETAIN FOR YOUR RECORDS

08/13/18

██████████ SCHOOL DIST
██████████

What Happened to My Payment?

The U.S. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Fiscal Service (Fiscal Service), applied all or part of your payment to delinquent debt that you owe. This action is authorized by federal law. Below is your payment information:

Payment From: Federal Communications Commission
Payee Name: ██████████
Original Payment: ██████████
Payment Date: 08/13/18
Payment Type: EFT

Who Do I Owe?

We applied your payment to debt that you owe to the following agency:

Debt Management Servicing Center
BUREAU OF THE FISCAL SERVICE
DMSC - BIRMINGHAM OFFICE
P. O. BOX 830794
BIRMINGHAM AL 35283-0794
888-826-3127
TOP Trace Number: ██████████
Account#: ██████████
Applied to This Debt: \$3405.59
Type of Debt: Non-Tax Federal Debt

Please see additional pages for other debts, if any.

What Should I Do Now?

If you agree that you owe the debt, you do not need to do anything. Your debt balance has been reduced. If you believe that your payment was applied in error, you would like to resolve your debt, or you have questions about your debt or outstanding balance, contact the agency listed under **Who Do I Owe**. Please have this notice available when you contact the agency.

Only an agency listed under **Who Do I Owe** has information about your debt. Before sending a debt to Fiscal Service, an agency must send notice to you at the address in its records. The notice explains the amount and type of debt you owe, the rights available to you, and the agency's intention to collect the debt by applying eligible federal payments made to you.

For questions about your debt, please call the agency listed under **Who Do I Owe**. If you have questions about the Treasury Offset Program, please visit our website at www.fiscal.treasury.gov/TOP or call 1-800-304-3107.

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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