North Carolina E-Rate Forum

Weekly E-Rate Newsletter
Vol. 12, No. 48 November 26, 2018

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Funding Status – FY 2018 and FY 2019

FY 2018:

USAC issued Wave 33 on Wednesday, November 21st. Cumulative funding as of Wave 33 is $1.92 billion, including $70.0 million for North Carolina.

FY 2019:

The FY 2019 administrative window is open and will remain open until at least January 7th. EPC entity profiles will be locked for the duration of the Form 471 application window (expected to open mid-January).

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

Identifying Form 470 Category 1 Service Option Errors:

Last week's newsletter dated November 19th noted that Form 470s for FY 2019 are still reflecting confusion on the part of some applicants regarding the proper use of the Category 1 pulldown menu options for requesting Internet and/or transmission services. Although Form 470 problems are ultimately the individual applicants' responsibility, it may be helpful for state and regional E-rate coordinators to identify likely Form 470 errors and to encourage applicants to refile corrected Form 470s.

The most common problem we're seeing is among smaller applicants that are requesting Internet access, typically via cable modem services. Too many Form 470s are requesting "Internet Access: ISP Service Only (No Transport Circuit included)" without any requests covering the associated circuit costs themselves. With the growing number of filings for FY 2019, finding and reviewing Form 470s requesting only ISP service is not a trivial exercise for state or regional coordinators.

Here's one way to manipulate USAC's database to highlight applicants requesting only ISP service:

1. Download the state's list of Form 470s posted for FY 2019 using USAC's Download 470 Information (FY2016 and later). To focus only on potential Internet posting problems,

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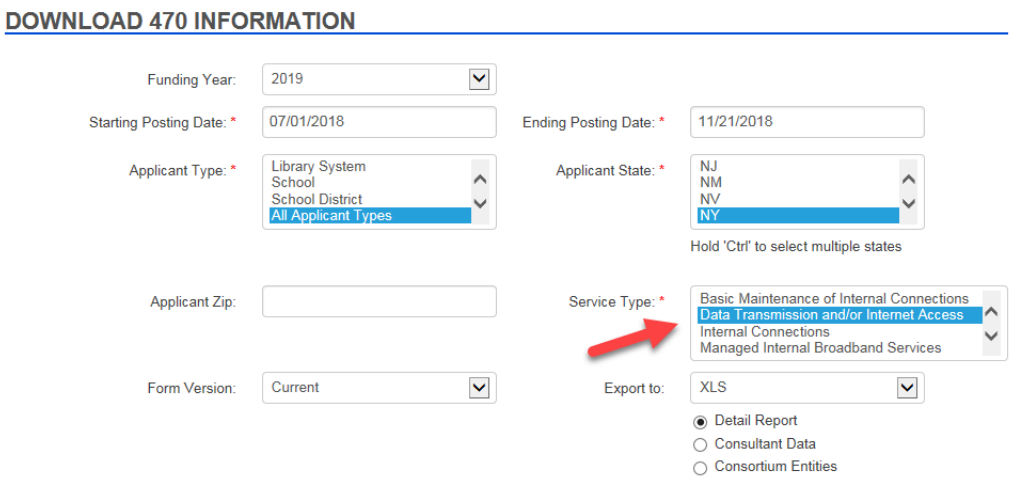
constrain the download (in Excel) to Category 1 "Data Transmission and/or Internet Access" service types.



2. The download file contains a wealth of Form 470 data with one row per "Function" request and multiple columns. For ease of use — reflected in the examples below — you may want to "Hide" unneccesary columns.

	D	E	P	S	T
1	BEN	Billed Entity Name	Applicant Type	Service Type	Function
2	10661	Applicant 10661	School	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Leased Lit Fiber (with or without Internet Access)
3	10661	Applicant 10661	School	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Internet Access and Transport Bundled (Non-Fiber)
4	10712	Applicant 10712	School	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Leased Lit Fiber (with or without Internet Access)
5	10712	Applicant 10712	School	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Internet Access and Transport Bundled (Non-Fiber)
6	10720	Applicant 10720	School	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Transport Only - No ISP Service Included (Non-Fiber)
7	10720	Applicant 10720	School	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Internet Access and Transport Bundled (Non-Fiber)
8	10720	Applicant 10720	School	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Internet Access: ISP Service Only (No Transport Circuit Included)
9	10720	Applicant 10720	School	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Leased Lit Fiber (with or without Internet Access)
10	10738	Applicant 10738	School	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Transport Only - No ISP Service Included (Non-Fiber)
11	10738	Applicant 10738	School	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Internet Access and Transport Bundled (Non-Fiber)
12	10738	Applicant 10738	School	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Internet Access: ISP Service Only (No Transport Circuit Included)
13	10738	Applicant 10738	School	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Leased Lit Fiber (with or without Internet Access)
14	10977	Applicant 10977	School	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Leased Lit Fiber (with or without Internet Access)
15	10977	Applicant 10977	School	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Transport Only - No ISP Service Included (Non-Fiber)
16	10977	Applicant 10977	School	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Transport Only - No ISP Service Included (Non-Fiber)
17	10977	Applicant 10977	School	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Internet Access and Transport Bundled (Non-Fiber)

3. Sort the file by Billed Entity Name. If an entity has filed more than one Form 470, the sort will group the entity's Form 470s together.

4. Insert a column (the new Col. S in the following example) and add the following Excel formula to each data cell in that column:

   =COUNTIF(E$2:E$335,E2)

   Note that the first argument in this formula covers the full fixed range of applicant names from Row 2 down to the end of the rows (in this case Row 335). The formula will count the number of rows (i.e., the number of "Function" requests made by each applicant). Applicant 10661, for example, has two requests.

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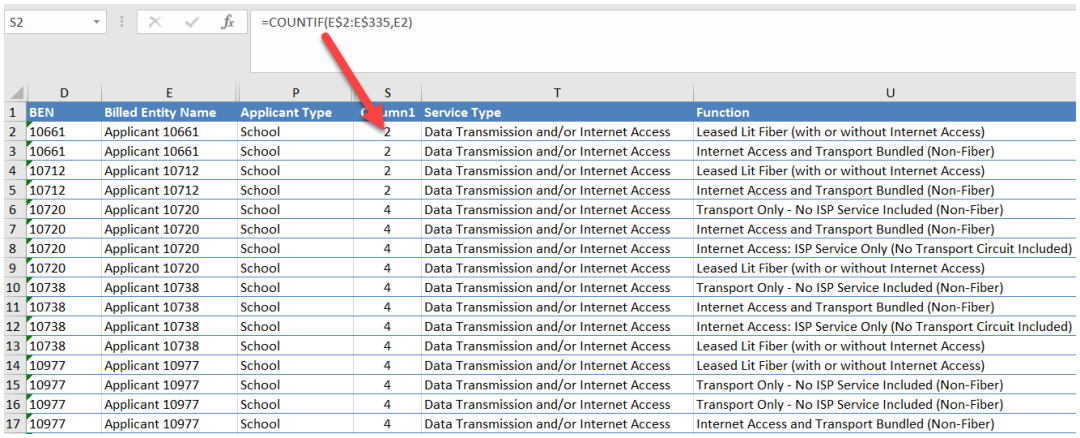
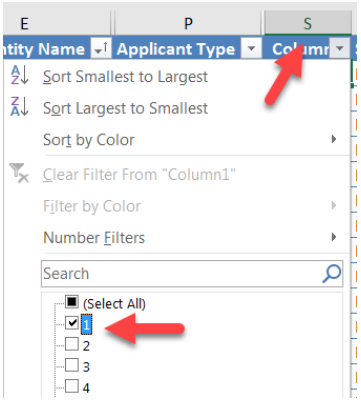


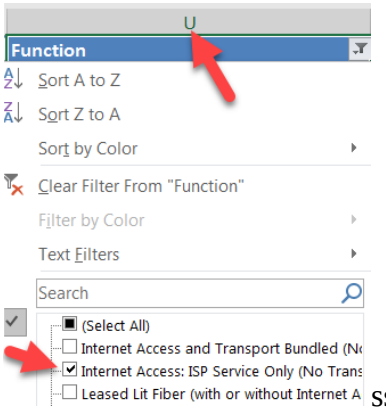
	D	E	P	S	T	U
1	BEN	Billed Entity Name	Applicant Type	Column1	Service Type	Function
2	10661	Applicant 10661	School	2	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Leased Lit Fiber (with or without Internet Access)
3	10661	Applicant 10661	School	2	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Internet Access and Transport Bundled (Non-Fiber)
4	10712	Applicant 10712	School	2	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Leased Lit Fiber (with or without Internet Access)
5	10712	Applicant 10712	School	2	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Internet Access and Transport Bundled (Non-Fiber)
6	10720	Applicant 10720	School	4	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Transport Only - No ISP Service Included (Non-Fiber)
7	10720	Applicant 10720	School	4	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Internet Access and Transport Bundled (Non-Fiber)
8	10720	Applicant 10720	School	4	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Internet Access: ISP Service Only (No Transport Circuit Included)
9	10720	Applicant 10720	School	4	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Leased Lit Fiber (with or without Internet Access)
10	10738	Applicant 10738	School	4	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Transport Only - No ISP Service Included (Non-Fiber)
11	10738	Applicant 10738	School	4	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Internet Access and Transport Bundled (Non-Fiber)
12	10738	Applicant 10738	School	4	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Internet Access: ISP Service Only (No Transport Circuit Included)
13	10738	Applicant 10738	School	4	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Leased Lit Fiber (with or without Internet Access)
14	10977	Applicant 10977	School	4	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Leased Lit Fiber (with or without Internet Access)
15	10977	Applicant 10977	School	4	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Transport Only - No ISP Service Included (Non-Fiber)
16	10977	Applicant 10977	School	4	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Transport Only - No ISP Service Included (Non-Fiber)
17	10977	Applicant 10977	School	4	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Internet Access and Transport Bundled (Non-Fiber)

5. To easily find applicants only requesting "Internet Access: ISP Service Only (No Transport Circuit included)," filter the spreadsheet for:

   a. Entities with only one request (as shown in Col. S); and



   b. Requests for ISP Service Only (as shown in Col. U).



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Resulting in the following list of applicants with potentially misleading Form 470s:

D	E	P	S	T	U
BEN	Billed Entity Name	Applicant Type	Columr	Service Type	Function
11175	Applicant 11175	School	1	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Internet Access: ISP Service Only (No Transport Circuit Included)
123998	Applicant 123998	Library	1	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Internet Access: ISP Service Only (No Transport Circuit Included)
124368	Applicant 124368	Library	1	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Internet Access: ISP Service Only (No Transport Circuit Included)
12859	Applicant 12859	School	1	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Internet Access: ISP Service Only (No Transport Circuit Included)
17006025	Applicant 17006025	Library	1	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Internet Access: ISP Service Only (No Transport Circuit Included)

State and regional E-rate coordinators may wish to reach out to these applicants to review their full Internet requirements and to make sure that their Form 470s are properly posted.

E-Rate Updates and Reminders

Upcoming E-Rate Dates:

November 26 — Form 486 deadline for FY 2018 funding committed in Wave 16. More generally, the Form 486 deadline is 120 days from the FCDL date or the service start date (typically July 1st), whichever is later. Other FY 2018 Form 486 deadlines this year are:

Wave 17	12/03/2018
Wave 18	12/10/2018
Wave 19	12/17/2018
Wave 20	12/24/2018
Wave 21	12/31/2018

Note: Applicants missing any Form 486 deadline should watch carefully for "Form 486 Urgent Reminder Letters" in their EPC News Feed. These Reminder Letters afford applicants 15-day extensions to submit their Form 486s without penalty (see last week's USAC News Brief references below).

November 28-29 — Next in the series of two-day USAC annual fall training workshops in Atlanta, GA. Full-day Tribal workshops will also be held November 28th in Spokane, WA, and November 30th in Farmington, NM.

USAC News Brief – None for the Thanksgiving Week

USAC did not issue a Schools and Libraries Program News Brief on Friday, November 23rd, due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

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.

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