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Funding Status – FY 2019 and FY 2018

FY 2019:

The Form 471 application window is open. It will close at 11:59 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, March 27th.

FY 2018:

USAC issued Wave 44 for FY 2018 on Thursday, February 7th, for \$9.07 million. Cumulative funding as of Wave 44 is \$2.14 billion, including \$70.1 million for North Carolina.

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

Last Friday’s USAC News Brief referenced below summarizes the changes made in EPC as of the previous week, namely:

- EPC users can now reopen customer service cases closed within the previous 30 days.
- Language in News items has been corrected to show when a consulting firm is no longer associated with an applicant.
- Form 486 Notification Letters will be mailed to the account administrator if no general contact is designated.
- Form 471 PDFs will always display the authorized person’s email address.
- The purpose and connection information on FRN line items is no longer truncated.
- A list of entities subject to the FCC’s Northern California Wildfire Waiver can be generated within EPC.

E-Rate Updates and Reminders

Upcoming E-Rate Dates:

February 11	Form 486 deadline for FY 2018 funding committed in Wave 27. More generally, the Form 486 deadline is 120 days from the FCDL date or the service start date (typically July 1 st), whichever is later. Other upcoming Form 486 deadlines are: <table><tr><td>Wave 28</td><td>02/18/2019</td></tr><tr><td>Wave 29</td><td>02/22/2019</td></tr></table> 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.	Wave 28	02/18/2019	Wave 29	02/22/2019
Wave 28	02/18/2019				
Wave 29	02/22/2019				
February 14	“Office Hours” USAC webinars — advanced session on eligible services.				
February 16	“Office Hours” USAC webinars — all level session on USAC data sources.				
February 26	Extended invoice deadline for FY 2017 recurring services.				
February 27	Last day to file a Form 470 to meet the minimum 28-day posting requirement prior to the close of the Form 471 application window.				
March 27	Close of the FY 2019 Form 471 application window.				

FCC Establishes USF Fraud Division:

The FCC announced a plan ([FCC 19-3](#)) to create a new Fraud Division within its Enforcement Bureau to fight waste, fraud, and abuse in Universal Service Fund programs (including E-rate). The new division, comprised of other Enforcement Bureau staff already working on USF-related investigations appears to be a codified formalization — or refocusing — of the [USF Strike Force](#) first announced in 2014. It will work in coordination with the FCC’s Office of Inspector General, the Department of Justice, and other law enforcement agencies. The reorganization will not become formal until reviewed and approved by the Office of Management and Budget, by the House and Senate appropriations Committees, and publication in the *Federal Register*.

USAC News Brief Dated February 8 – Competitive Bidding FAQs

In addition to the EPC upgrades discussed above, [USAC’s Schools and Libraries News Brief of February 8, 2019](#), asks, then answers, the following questions on the Form 470 and the competitive bidding process:

- Do I always have to file a Form 470? Short answer: No, but be careful.
- Do I have to file a Form 470 if I have only one service provider in my area? Short answer: Yes (unless covered by previous Q&A).
- How do I describe the services I need?

- How general or specific should my descriptions be?
- What numbers should I provide if I'm not sure what I need?

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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