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Funding Status – FY 2019

USAC released Wave 32 for FY 2019 on Thursday, November 7th. Funding totaled \$19.7 million including \$4 thousand for one North Carolina applicant. Cumulative commitments through November 7th are \$1.93 billion including \$55.5 million for North Carolina.

E-Rate Updates and Reminders

Upcoming E-Rate Dates:

November 15 Form 486 deadline for FY 2019 funding committed in Wave 13. 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 upcoming Form 486 deadlines are:

Wave 14	11/22/2019
Wave 15	11/29/2019

November 13–21 Remaining USAC 2019 fall applicant/tribal training sessions (see USAC’s [2019 Training](#) webpage for a schedule of the sessions).

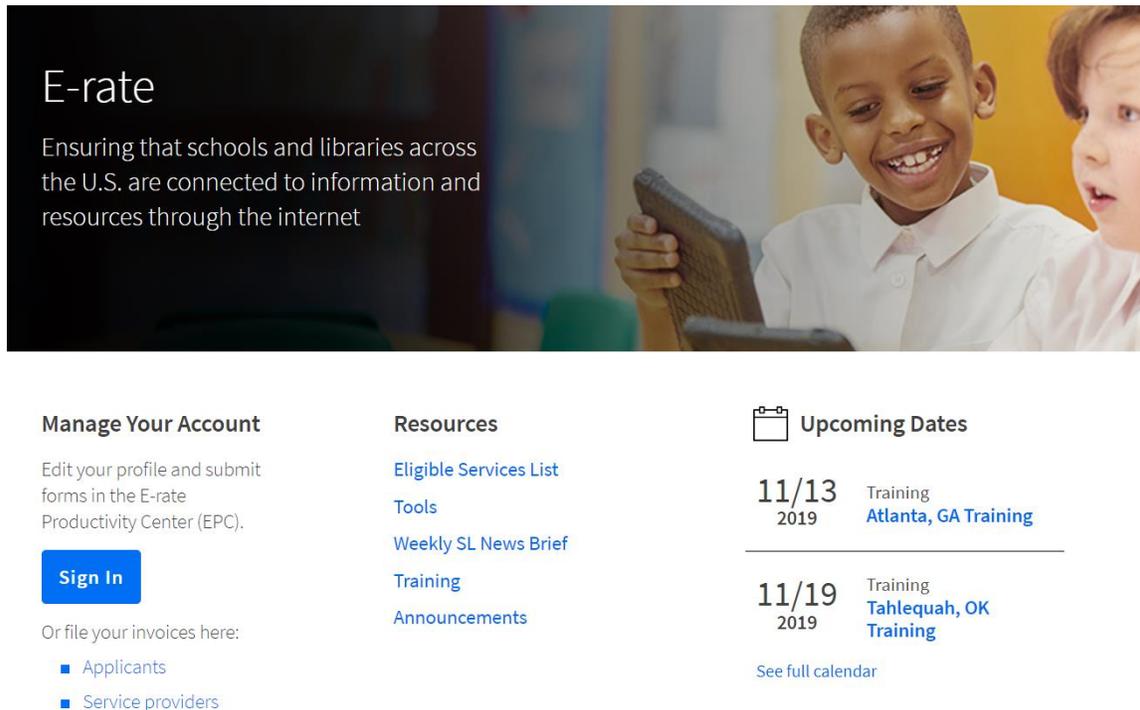
USAC News Brief Dated November 8 – USAC Website and System Updates

[USAC’s Schools and Libraries News Brief of November 8, 2019](#), announces the launch of a major update to the entire USAC website including the Schools & Libraries (E-rate) site. Three points stressed in the News Brief are:

- The primary purpose of the update is to improve the site’s design and functionality to help users find the information they need. Menus are being expanded to simplify site navigation and to “put key dates and resources front and center.” FAQ sections, for example, will be updated to permit searches by topic of specific key words.
- Most of the underlying content remains the same but not all earlier URLs will be maintained. Any use of out-of-date URLs will be redirected to the USAC landing page to provide access to the new search capability.
- Changes to the USAC website may limit the functionality and/or data display of certain legacy forms and tools for a few days this week.

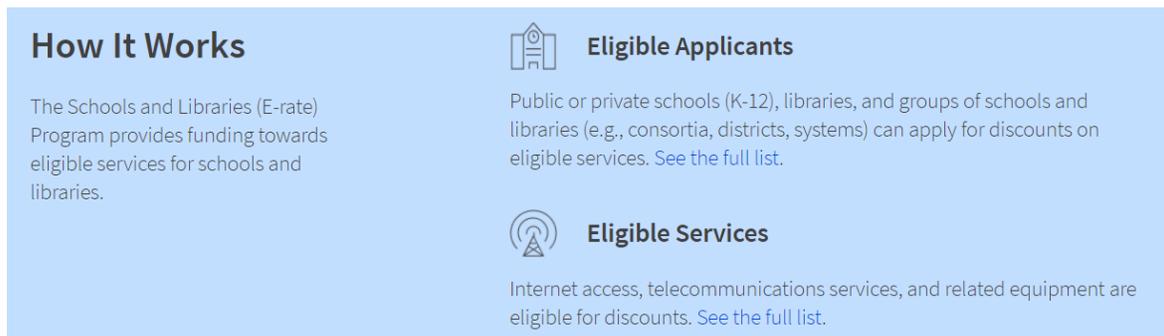
Although the News Brief indicated that the launch of the new site was scheduled for Veterans Day, Monday, November 11th, at least some elements of the new site were up and running last Saturday with the new homepage URL usac.org/e-rate/ (replacing usac.org/sl/). The new homepage has three main sections as shown below.

- EPC login and links to the applicant and service provider legacy invoice systems; links to key resources; and important upcoming dates.



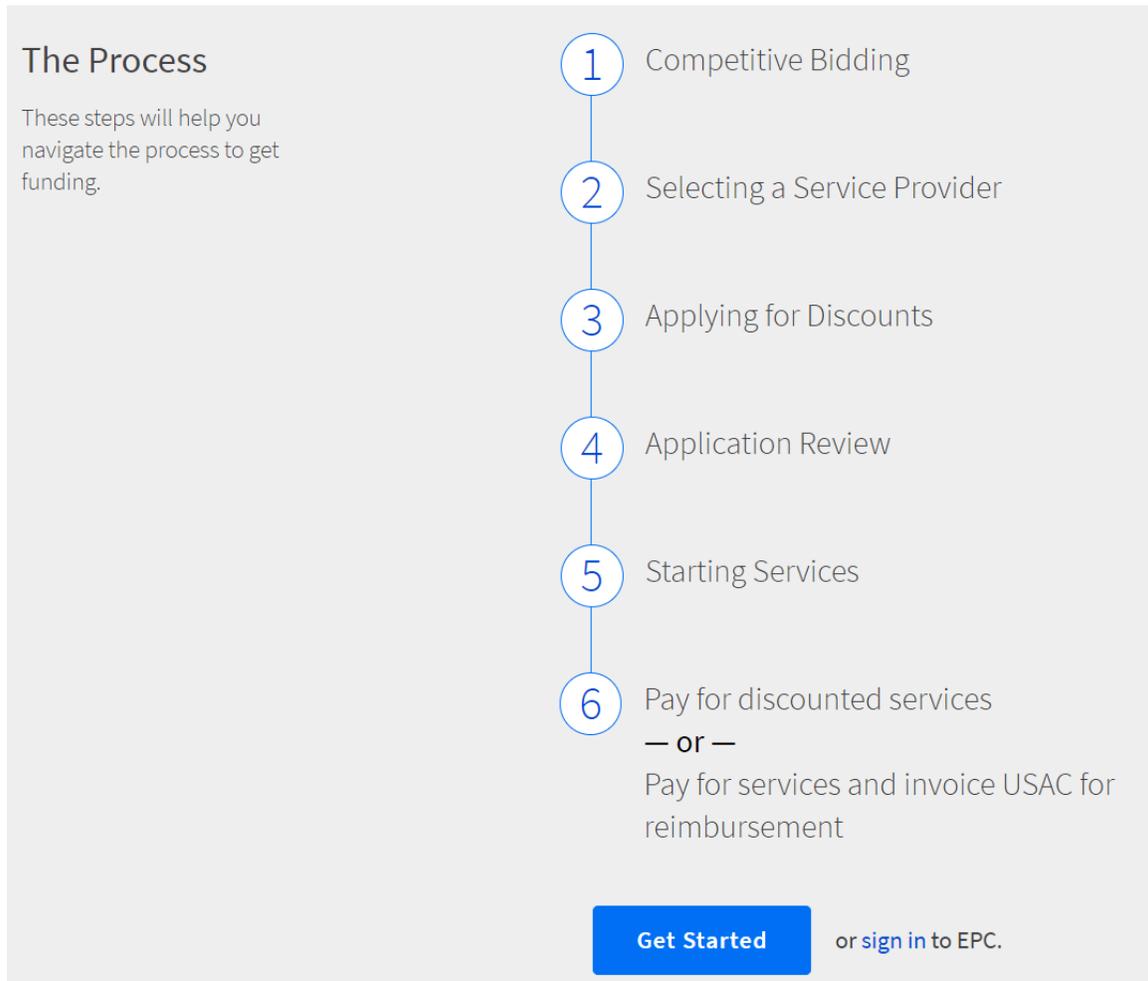
The screenshot shows the E-rate homepage with a header image of two children looking at a tablet. Below the header, there are three main sections: 'Manage Your Account', 'Resources', and 'Upcoming Dates'. The 'Manage Your Account' section includes a 'Sign In' button and links to 'Applicants' and 'Service providers'. The 'Resources' section lists 'Eligible Services List', 'Tools', 'Weekly SL News Brief', 'Training', and 'Announcements'. The 'Upcoming Dates' section shows two training events: '11/13 2019 Training Atlanta, GA Training' and '11/19 2019 Training Tahlequah, OK Training', with a link to 'See full calendar'.

- Links to what had previously been shown as the basic program steps for both applicants and service providers.



The screenshot shows the 'How It Works' section of the E-rate homepage. It is divided into three parts: 'How It Works', 'Eligible Applicants', and 'Eligible Services'. The 'How It Works' section explains that the Schools and Libraries (E-rate) Program provides funding towards eligible services for schools and libraries. The 'Eligible Applicants' section states that public or private schools (K-12), libraries, and groups of schools and libraries (e.g., consortia, districts, systems) can apply for discounts on eligible services. The 'Eligible Services' section states that internet access, telecommunications services, and related equipment are eligible for discounts.

- Simplified step-by-step diagram of the bidding, application, and invoicing process with a link to a more detailed explanation.



The News Brief also reports the following EPC updates:

- The addition of a Pending Inquiries Grid on each applicant’s Landing Page including a line items for outstanding inquires (except invoice and COMAD inquiries).
- An update to PIA outreach templates that will now permit applicant uploads and/or narrative comments on all templates.

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.

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