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Funding Status – FY 2020

Wave 10 for FY 2020 was released on Thursday, July 9th for a total of \$32.8 million including \$196 thousand for 7 North Carolina applicants. Cumulative commitments through July 9th are \$1.10 billion including \$23.6 million for North Carolina. Nationwide, USAC has now funded over 72% of the FY 2020 applications received during the filing window representing 38% of the requested funding.

E-Rate Updates and Reminders

Upcoming E-Rate Dates:

July 27 Scheduled date for the implementation of multifactor authentication (“MFA”) as a requirement for E-rate applicants to access EPC or the BEAR Form system through a new “One Portal” [MFA security system](#) (see below).

MFA Coming to E-Rate:

Following up on an earlier [News Brief of June 26th](#), USAC sent emails to registered EPC and BEAR Form system users last week to announce that “[MFA is Coming to E-rate on July 27.](#)” The same information was also included in last Friday’s News Brief referenced below. As discussed in our [newsletter of June 29th](#), “MFA” stands for multifactor authentication, a more secure means of logging into web portals that involves not only the traditional user name and password but an additional code sent to a user via email or text immediately prior to each login.

As implemented by USAC, the new MFA system will require users to log into a new “One Portal” dashboard with links, depending on a user’s “entitlement,” to EPC and/or the BEAR Form system. USAC indicates that users of both EPC and the BEAR Form should expect a second email with more information later this month.

FY 2020 Funding Cap:

An FCC Public Notice ([DA 20-712](#)) released last week formally directed USAC to fund all eligible Category 1 and Category 2 funding requests for FY 2020. The Notice was hardly surprising given that (a) the E-rate funding cap for FY 2020, adjusted for inflation, is \$4.23 billion; (b) an additional

\$500 million in previously unused funds is available for carry-over into FY 2020; and (c) USAC's [preliminary estimate of demand](#) for FY 2020 is only \$2.91 billion.

With Congress still discussing legislation to appropriate \$2-5 billion in non-USF funding for remote learning, it is worth noting that E-rate funding, as currently authorized, could provide over \$1.5 billion of additional funding in FY 2020 alone if Congress would simply change (and/or clarify) E-rate's statutory authority to fund off-campus Internet equipment and services.

USAC News Brief Dated July 10 – MFA and IT Enhancements

[USAC's Schools and Libraries News Brief of July 10, 2020](#), includes all the multifactor authentication ("MFA") information included in USAC's July 7th email discussed above. The News Brief also encourages E-rate program participants to provide feedback on USAC's IT systems using the [Share Your E-rate User-Experience System Ideas](#) form on its website. A [list of major enhancements](#) made to USAC systems since March 2019 based on user-submitted ideas is also provided.

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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