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Funding Status – FY 2020

Wave 11 for FY 2020 was released on Thursday, July 16th for a total of \$46.4 million including \$1.71 million for 14 North Carolina applicants. Cumulative commitments are \$1.14 billion including \$25.3 million for North Carolina. Nationwide, USAC has now funded over 74% of the FY 2020 applications received during the filing window representing almost 40% 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 systems through a new “One Portal” (see below).

Switch Port Usage Concerns:

Responding to recent instances of PIA review and audit requests for lists of equipment attached to or using structured cabling and data distribution equipment (most typically switches), the State E-Rate Coordinators’ Alliance (“SECA”) initiated a discussion with the FCC’s Wireline Competition Bureau staff last week in an effort to clarify what attached equipment, if any, would require cost allocation of otherwise eligible Category 2 equipment. [SECA’s ex parte filing](#) of that discussion was filed last Friday.

SECA notes that most equipment connected to a school’s network, such as computers, printers, security cameras, etc., are themselves ineligible, but that USAC may believe that the use of some equipment not meeting a vague definition of “educational purpose” may make a portion of the network itself ineligible. SECA asks the FCC “to clarify in writing, preferably within the FY 2021 Eligible Services List, that all on-premise devices connected to structured cabling and wired/wireless data distribution equipment serve an educational purpose and therefore, there is no associated cost allocation requirement for any connected devices.”

USAC News Brief Dated July 17 – MFA Implementation

[USAC's Schools and Libraries News Brief of July 17, 2020](#), provides additional information on USAC's plan to implement multifactor authentication ("MFA") to increase login security for access to the EPC and BEAR Form websites. Effective July 27th, both systems will be accessed through a new common "One Portal." In addition to the traditional username (email address) and password (or PIN in the case of the BEAR system), a user will receive a one-time code via email or text to be entered into a verification field on the login screen. Once in the One Portal, a user will see a "dashboard" that, depending upon the user's credentials, will provide access to EPC and/or the BEAR Form systems.

The News Brief indicates that current users of the EPC and BEAR Form websites will receive an email on Monday morning, July 27th, with specific login instructions (summarized in the News Brief).

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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