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Funding Status – FY 2020

Wave 13 for FY 2020 was released on Thursday, July 30th for a total of \$39.7 million including \$3.46 million for 24 North Carolina applicants. Cumulative commitments are \$1.24 billion including \$31.5 million for North Carolina. Nationwide, USAC has now funded 78% of the FY 2020 applications received during the filing window representing almost 44% of the requested funding.

E-Rate Updates and Reminders

Upcoming E-Rate Dates:

August 20 Deadline for submitting initial comments on the FCC’s draft ESL for FY 2021 ([DA 20-767](#)) — see our [newsletter of July 27th](#). Reply comments are due September 4th.

FCC Decision Watch:

The FCC issued another set of “streamlined” precedent-based decisions ([DA 20-792](#)) last week. Applicants facing similar problems as those addressed in these decisions may garner useful information by carefully reading the additional FCC explanations found in the footnotes. The original appeal and waiver requests can be found online in the FCC’s [Search for Filings](#) under Docket 02-6.

In July’s streamlined decisions, the FCC:

1. Dismissed:
 - a. One Request for Waiver of the “Red Light Rule” as a result of unpaid E-rate debt from FY 2016.
2. Granted:
 - a. One Request for Review accepting the applicant’s discount rate documentation.
 - b. Twenty-nine Requests for Waiver for late-filed FY 2020 Form 471 applications filed within 14 days of the close of the window.
 - c. Two Requests for Waiver for late-filed FY 2020 Form 471 applications due to COVID 19 circumstances beyond the applicants’ control.

- d. Two Requests for Waiver or Review for ministerial and/or clerical errors involving the categorization of services on the applicants' Form 471s.
 - e. One Request for Review and/or Waiver of the signed contract requirement due to clerical errors but with some form of an agreement in place prior to the filing of the applicant's Form 471.
 - f. Two Requests for Waiver of the appeal/waiver deadline due to COVID 19.
 - g. One Request for Waiver of the special construction service delivery deadline.
3. Denied:
- a. One Request for Review involving the improper involvement of the service provider in the competitive bidding process.
 - b. Two Requests for Waiver for invoice deadline extension requests.
 - c. One Request for Waiver of the appeal/waiver deadline for a FY 2017 application.

USAC News Brief Dated July 31 – Troubleshooting MFA Access

As discussed in [last week's newsletter](#), USAC implemented a new multifactor authentication ("MFA") process on Monday, July 27th, requiring an additional security step to access the EPC and/or BEAR Form systems through USAC's new unified "One Portal". Applicants using the MFA process for the first time may find it useful to review our [illustrated version](#) of USAC's initial instructions.

For the most part, we have found that USAC's MFA process works well, but that some users have experienced problems. [USAC's Schools and Libraries News Brief of July 31, 2020](#), provides the following tips for troubleshooting MFA access issues:

- Verify that you have a One Portal account.
- Verify that you can receive the log in email.
- Review the requirements for your password.
- Act quickly when you receive your verification code (it's good for only 10 minutes).
- Check your entitlements.
- Create new users as usual.
- Ask for assistance if you need it by calling the Client Service Bureau (888-203-8100).

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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