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## Funding Status – FY 2020

Wave 17 for FY 2020 was released on Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup> for a total of \$59.7 million including \$1.68 million for 15 North Carolina applicants. Cumulative commitments are \$1.45 billion including \$38.0 million for North Carolina. Nationwide, USAC has now funded 85% of the FY 2020 applications representing 52% of the requested funding.

## SECA and SHLB Support Additional COVID-19 E-Rate Measures

Earlier this month (see our [newsletter of August 10<sup>th</sup>](#)), the State E-Rate Coordinators' Alliance (“SECA”) urged the FCC to fund additional Internet bandwidth and to extend the gift rule waiver throughout FY 2020. These requests were quickly supported by the American Library Association (“ALA”), the Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband Coalition (“SHLB”), the Consortium for School Networking (“CoSN”), and the State Educational Technology Directors Association (“SETDA”).

Last week, in a conference call with the staff of the FCC’s Wireline Competition Bureau, SECA and SHLB jointly discussed their requests to provide additional broadband support both on- and off-campus during the pandemic (see [SECA/SHLB ex parte letter of August 25<sup>th</sup>](#)).

As a follow-up to this discussion, SECA submitted a [supplemental analysis](#) to the FCC estimating the need for an additional \$69-103 million in E-rate support for expanded Internet services over and above approved and still pending applications for FY 2020. SECA’s analysis was based on survey responses from more than 350 schools across 20 states indicating requirements for 10-15% increases in Internet expenditures, some of which have already been incurred.

SHLB, for its part, submitted an additional [ex parte letter](#) supporting the emergency measures to allow schools and libraries to obtain E-rate support for immediate bandwidth increases necessary to handle the growth of online learning. In addition to increased funding for FY 2020, both SECA and SHLB stressed the need for the FCC to adopt a streamlined process to obtain the additional E-rate support without going through the traditional competitive bidding process. SHLB also asked the FCC to adopt similar measures for Rural Healthcare participants to support the expansion of telehealth services.

E-Rate Central continues to support SECA’s and SHLB’s call for additional emergency E-rate funding during the COVID-19 crisis.

## E-Rate Updates and Reminders

### *Upcoming E-Rate Dates:*

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|-------------|--|
| September 4 | Deadline for submitting reply comments on the FCC's draft ESL for FY 2021 ( <a href="#">DA 20-767</a> ) (see our <a href="#">newsletter of July 27<sup>th</sup></a> ). |
| October 12  | Nomination deadline for six USAC Board members including one school representative.  |

## USAC News Brief Dated August 28 – Reminders on Extended Program Deadlines

[USAC's Schools and Libraries News Brief of August 28, 2020](#), reminds applicants and service providers of the FCC's April COVID-19 Order ([DA 20-364](#)) extending many of the E-rate program deadlines. Specifically, USAC notes:

- The one-year waiver of service delivery deadlines for non-recurring services and special construction.
- The extended deadline for filing appeals and/or requests for waivers.
- The automatic extension of invoice deadlines.
- The extended procedural deadline for filing Form 486s.
- The extended timeframe for responding to USAC and PIA information requests.

Last week's News Brief also indicates that USAC has noticed a number of line item denials of BEAR and SPI invoices due to incorrect dates in the "Customer Billed Date" and/or "Shipping Date" fields. The News Brief reviews the meaning of both fields and reminds filers that only one date field should be utilized for each line item.

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*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](mailto:join-ncerate@lists.dpi.state.nc.us). Please include your name, organization, telephone, and e-mail address.*

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