

[Back](#) header

Schools and Libraries News Brief

January 20, 2006

Funding Year 2005 Waves

USAC will release Wave 31 funding commitment letters January 25. As of January 20, Funding Year 2005 commitments total about \$1.19 billion. See [Automated Search of Commitments](#) for more information.

Contracts

In general, services that are not provided under tariff or under a month-to-month arrangement require a contract. Once you have completed your competitive bidding process, conducted your bid evaluation, and selected a service provider, keep the following points in mind if services will be provided under a contract:

Wait 28 days. You must wait 28 days after the date your Form 470 is posted to the USAC website (and 28 days after your Request for Proposals (RFP) is issued, if you issued one after the Form 470 was posted) before you and your service provider can sign a contract.

Tariffed services provided under contract. Even if your services are provided under tariff or month-to-month arrangements, USAC considers those services to be contracted services if you and your service provider have signed a contract. In such cases, you must complete items on Form 471 related to contracts such as Contract Number, Contract Award Date, and Contract Expiration Date.

Two signatures and two dates. Both you and your service provider must sign and date your contract. The applicant's date must be on or after the Allowable Vendor Selection/Contract Date; both dates must be on or before the date that the Form 471 is signed and submitted.

Contracts with voluntary extensions. A contract with a provision for voluntary extensions ends when the original term of the contract ends. If you indicated on your Form 470 and/or RFP that you were seeking a contract with voluntary extensions, you can extend the contract without filing a new Form 470. However, if you did not make that indication, you must post a new Form 470 and consider any other bids received before you can extend that contract.

See [Contract Guidance](#) for more information on contracts.

Do not procrastinate! USAC has already begun reviewing finished applications — that is, certified Forms 471 with Item 21 attachments submitted. Applicants that file early will enter the review process more quickly and applicants that [take advantage of online options](#) — filing and certifying forms and submitting Item 21 attachments — reduce errors and increase their chances for a speedier decision.

Reminder: Last Hurricane Katrina Relief Deadline Next Week

January 26, 2006 is an important deadline for two sets of beneficiaries directly affected by Hurricane Katrina.

1. Applicants directly affected by Hurricane Katrina can apply for service substitutions across categories of service on an approved or pending application for Funding Year 2005. For example, an applicant with an approved funding request for Telecommunications Services can request a service substitution for eligible network routers and switches under Internal Connections up to the value of the original request. Such service substitution requests must be received or postmarked by January 26.

2. Certain program deadlines were postponed for up to 150 days for applicants and service providers directly affected by Hurricane Katrina. If the filing deadline for certain forms, payments, and data occurred on or after August 29, 2005, the FCC postponed the deadline to January 26.

For applicants, the following are affected:

- o Appeals
- o 7-day procedure for requesting information
- o Invoicing deadlines (Form 472 Billed Entity Applicant Reimbursement and Form 474 Service Provider Invoice)
- o Form 486 deadlines (Receipt of Service Confirmation)
- o Service delivery deadlines
- o Service delivery extension request deadlines
- o Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) change deadlines
- o Service substitution request deadlines
- o Equipment transfer notifications
- o COMAD (commitment adjustment) deadlines (this will halt any actions that would lead to turning on the Red Light Rule and DCIA transfers)
- o Red Light Rule dismissal of applications

See the [USF-Katrina website](#) for more information including links to the relevant FCC orders.

Over 12,000 applicants have already used their new PINs to certify forms. You can [file and certify forms or submit Item 21 attachments online](#).

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[Back](#)