

[Back](#) [header](#)

Schools and Libraries News Brief

January 27, 2006

- [Funding Year 2005 Waves](#)
- [State Master Contracts](#)
- [January 30 Invoicing Deadline](#)
- [Tip: Try the New DRT!](#)

Funding Year 2005 Waves

[Top](#)

USAC will release Wave 32 funding commitment letters February 1. As of January 27, Funding Year 2005 commitments total over \$1.2 billion. See [Automated Search of Commitments](#) for more information.

State Master Contracts

[Top](#)

State master contracts are contracts that are competitively bid and put in place by state governments for use by others. In many cases, applicants can purchase from state master contracts but must follow Schools and Libraries Program rules.

- **If the state files a Form 470**, an applicant can cite the state's Form 470 on its Form 471. The state must have followed a [competitive bidding process that meets FCC requirements](#), including the 28-day waiting period, and state procurement law.
- **If the applicant files its own Form 470**, an existing state master contract can be considered as one of the bid responses. The applicant must follow a [competitive bidding process that meets FCC requirements](#), including the 28-day waiting period, and state procurement law.

Some state master contracts contain multiple award schedules or price floors or ceilings. In these cases, the applicant must be able to demonstrate that selection of the state contract is the most cost-effective solution.

An applicant that purchases from a state master contract does not have to negotiate a separate contract unless state law requires it to do so. The state contract can meet the program requirement for a contract signed and dated by both parties. However, the applicant should record the date that the state master contract was chosen as most cost-effective:

- If the state files the Form 470 and the applicant files the Form 471, the applicant should send a letter or an email to the service provider confirming the choice and its plan to purchase from the relevant state master contract.
- An applicant that files a Form 470 and then chooses a state master contract as the most cost-effective bid should record the date the choice was made as the Contract Award Date and report that date in Item 18 of the Form 471 funding request.

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

In some cases, an applicant can apply for discounts on products and services even if the relevant state master contract expires before or during the funding year. See [State Replacement Contracts](#) for more information on the specific requirements for such situations.

January 30 Invoicing Deadline

[Top](#)

January 30, 2006 is the last date to invoice USAC for non-recurring services that had a delivery and installation deadline of September 30, 2005. (The calculated deadline for these invoices is January 28, which falls on a Saturday.) Note that this invoice deadline is specific to the installation deadline, not to any funding year. To check on the last date to invoice for a particular Funding Request Number (FRN), see the [FRN Extension Table](#).

If you or your service provider will not be able to invoice USAC by the deadline, you should submit an [invoice deadline extension request](#). When USAC approves the extension request, you can then submit your invoice (**Billed Entity Applicant Reimbursement Form 472** for applicants or **Service Provider Invoice Form 474** for service providers) to USAC.

Tip: Try the New DRT!

[Top](#)

USAC's Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) provides a wealth of information about individual funding commitments. On Monday, January 30, the existing DRT will be improved with several new features, additional data fields, and clearer field names.

To search on the upgraded DRT, choose a Funding Year and one or more of the following:

- State
- Billed Entity Number (BEN)
- Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN).

While an applicant can still search to identify funding commitments across an entire state, a service provider with a SPIN that covers multiple states can now perform one search to review all FRNs featuring that SPIN. Four basic form statuses have been added for the Form 470 and Form 471 associated with an FRN – cancelled, incomplete, complete, and certified. Only certified forms are reviewed by USAC.

A new field, Appeal Wave Number, will allow tracking of appeal commitments. All funding commitment wave numbers have three characters. Appeal wave numbers differ from regular commitment wave numbers in that they begin with the letter "A." For example, the fourth appeal wave run for any funding year would be numbered A04.

In addition to choosing specific data points as before, you can now select a new Standard Report. This report format automatically returns the ten most commonly requested fields, greatly simplifying the query process.

Finally, you can choose to see your search results returned in either Microsoft Excel or Tab-Delimited Text.

See the [Data Retrieval Tool](#) for more information or to perform a search. Remember that the upgrades will not be available until Monday morning, January 30.

You can submit Item 21 attachments online if you file your Form 471 online. Just click on the button labeled "Item 21 Attachment" on the [Apply Online](#) page once you have your application number and security code.

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[Back](#)