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Schools and Libraries News Brief

August 4, 2006

Commitments for Funding Years 2006

Funding Year 2006. USAC will release FY2006 Wave 16 funding commitment decision letters (FCDLs) August 8. As of August 4, FY2006 commitments total over \$565 million for approved Priority 1 requests (Telecommunications Services and Internet Access).

USAC will continue to issue weekly funding commitment waves. After noon on the date that the FCDLs are mailed, you can check to see if you have a commitment by using USAC's [Automated Search of Commitments](#) tool.

Update on Technology Plan Approval Reviews

Technology plans are required for all discounted services other than [basic telephone service](#). Applicants certify on both Form 470 and Form 471 that their technology plans:

- are written (or "created") before the Form 470 is filed
- cover all 12 months of the funding year (or that part of the funding year for which discounts are being requested)
- are approved or will be approved by a USAC-certified Technology Plan Approver by the start of service (or the date the Form 486 is submitted, whichever is earlier)

Applicants must also list the organization(s) that approved their technology plan in Item 8 of the Form 486. USAC may review your entry to validate your certification that your technology plan — if required — contains the [five required elements](#), covers the funding year, and has been approved. (In a [Selective Review](#), USAC will also ask questions about other aspects of your technology plan.)

You should pay careful attention to your entry in Item 8 of the Form 486. The organization(s) that you list in this item must be:

- A USAC-certified Technology Plan Approver. In general, state departments of education and state libraries can approve technology plans for public schools and libraries in their states, respectively. However, USAC has certified other types of organizations to approve technology plans for certain entities that are not necessarily covered by these state agencies. Examples of such entities include diocesan schools, multi-state associations, and private schools. The [Certified Tech Plan Approver Locator](#) will help you determine if your approver has been certified by USAC.
- Certified to approve your entity type. For example, a state department of education may be certified to approve public schools in your state but not libraries. Some non-state entities approve technology plans for only one specific type of entity.
- Certified to approve technology plans for the time period or funding year covered in the Form 486. Some non-state entities have allowed their status as USAC-certified approvers to lapse or have been removed from the list of certified approvers for other reasons.

Following are a few examples of entries that you should NOT include in Item 8. These individuals or entities may be part of your internal review process, but they are not USAC-certified Technology Plan Approvers:

- Your technology director
- Your school principal or library director

- Your school district office or library administrative office
- Your school or library board

If you file your Form 486 online, the system provides a drop-down list of entities that are certified to approve technology plans for your entity type in your state. If the entity that approved your technology plan is not listed, you can choose "Other" and then enter the USAC-certified Technology Plan Approver's name. However, you should first perform a search using USAC's [Certified Tech Plan Approver Locator](#) to locate the entity that you intend to enter.

If the technology plan does not comply with program rules, USAC may reject a Form 486 or may adjust the service start date or service end date.

For more information, refer to the [Technology Planning](#) guidance on the USAC website.

Invoice Hotline Number Discontinued

Due to the increased processing efficiency in the Invoicing area, calls to the Invoice Hotline have greatly diminished. Consequently, that telephone number has been disconnected. The Client Service Bureau now has access to information on invoices and can assist applicants and service providers with invoice questions by email at [Submit a Question](#) or by phone at **1-888-203-8100**.

Phone Number Change for Payment Plan Requests

If USAC determines that funds were disbursed in error, USAC issues a Demand Payment Letter to the affected applicant or service provider. In that letter, USAC provides a telephone number which the applicant or service provider can call to set up a payment plan to return the funds to USAC.

Effective August 10, 2006, the phone number for requesting a payment plan will be changed to **973-581-5395**. Please call this number **only** if you are interested in setting up a payment plan. If you have general questions about Commitment Adjustments (COMADs), please continue to contact the Client Service Bureau at 1-888-203-8100.

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