Back

header

Schools and Libraries News Brief

August 11, 2006

Commitments for Funding Years 2006 and 2005

Funding Year 2006. USAC will release FY2006 Wave 17 funding commitment decision letters (FCDLs) August 15. As of August 11, FY2006 commitments total over $582 million for approved Priority 1 requests (Telecommunications Services and Internet Access).

Funding Year 2005. USAC will release FY2005 Wave 53 FCDLs August 16. This wave will include commitments for approved Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance funding requests at 84% and above. As of August 11, FY2005 commitments total over $1.71 billion.

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 Late and Missing Certifications for FY2006 Forms 471

In the FCC's Bishop Perry Order (FCC 06-54), USAC was directed to "provide all E-rate applicants … an additional opportunity to file the required certifications." Beginning this week, applicants should be on the lookout for communications about late or missing certifications for FY2006 Forms 471.

Out-Of-Window FY2006 Form 471 Certifications. On Wednesday, August 9, USAC issued over 300 Receipt Acknowledgment Letters (RALs) to applicants that submitted their Forms 471 online before the close of the application filing window but certified their forms after the window closed. (The associated RALs and electronic notifications to about 200 service providers were issued August 4.) USAC has moved these forms to a "Certified – In Window" status with a certification postmark date of February 16, 2006. Remember, you can check the status of your application using the Form 471 Application Status tool.

Yesterday, USAC sent the affected applicants a letter informing them that their applications will be reviewed by Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) as if the applications had been received or postmarked within the window. If PIA detects any additional ministerial or clerical errors during the review of these applications, these applicants will be given an opportunity to correct those errors. Applicants can also submit corrections for ministerial and clerical errors that USAC cannot detect.

Missing FY2006 Form 471 Certifications. In the near future, the Client Service Bureau (CSB) will begin telephoning applicants that submitted a Form 471 online before the close of the application filing window but whose application status is still "Complete." This status means that the application has not been certified because USAC:

- has no record of an online certification, or
- has not received and processed a paper certification, or
- returned a paper certification because it failed Minimum Processing Standards (MPS)

There are over 700 applications in this "Complete" status for FY2006.

CSB will first contact these applicants by telephone and then follow up with an email or fax. The written communication will establish the 15-day deadline to submit a missing certification for a form. If CSB cannot make a successful two-way contact by telephone with the contact person designated on the form, CSB will wait until the week after Labor Day to resume its attempts to contact the applicant following the procedures in Deadlines for Information Requests. After that time, the normal 15-day deadline for a response will apply even if a successful two-way contact by telephone cannot be made.

FY2006 Forms 471 that failed MPS. Also in the near future, CSB will be reaching out to the contact persons on about 100 Forms 471 that were received or postmarked within the window but which failed MPS. These applicants will be informed of the errors that caused their forms to fail MPS and will be given an opportunity to correct those errors and resubmit their forms. Again, the 15-day deadline as described above will apply to applicant responses.

Please respond promptly to all requests for information. Remember that USAC returns to its regular 15-day deadline procedures for information requests the week after Labor Day.

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Back