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Schools and Libraries News Brief

August 25, 2006

Commitments for Funding Years 2006 and 2005

Funding Year 2006. USAC will release FY2006 Wave 19 funding commitment decision letters (FCDLs) August 29. As of August 25, FY2006 commitments total just under \$620 million for approved Priority 1 requests (Telecommunications Services and Internet Access).

Funding Year 2005. USAC will release FY2005 Wave 55 FCDLs August 30. This wave will include commitments for approved Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance funding requests at 84% and above. As of August 25, FY2005 commitments total just under \$1.73 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 to Suspensions and Debarments Page

Next week, USAC will issue Wave 40H for FY2003. This wave will include denials of individual Funding Request Numbers (FRNs) that feature service providers debarred from the Schools and Libraries program. We are providing the information below to help you understand the suspension and debarment process and to describe additional information now provided in the [Suspensions and Debarments page](#) of the USAC website.

When the FCC learns that a person, company, or other entity has been convicted of a crime as a result of a criminal case — or has been found to be liable as a result of a civil case — for certain acts arising from participation in the Schools and Libraries program, the FCC issues a Notice of Suspension and of Proposed Debarment to that person. If a person is subsequently suspended or debarred, he or she cannot receive funds or discounted services from the program or consult, assist, or advise applicants or service providers regarding the program.

This suspension is effective the day the FCC notice is issued. However, the person suspended can contest the suspension (or the scope of the suspension) and proposed debarment by filing an opposition with the FCC. Additionally, a person who has an existing contract with a suspended person or who intends to contract with a suspended person can contest the suspension (or the scope of suspension) and proposed debarment. The FCC must receive any oppositions within 30 days of the receipt of the original notice or the publication of notice in the Federal Register, whichever is earlier.

- The FCC tries to make a decision on the proposed debarment within 90 days, although it may take longer. If the FCC decides to debar the person, it will issue a Notice of Debarment.
- Debarment is generally for three years. However, the FCC can impose a shorter or longer period of debarment, depending on circumstances.

Once a service provider has been debarred by the FCC, USAC will deny all pending FRNs featuring that service provider. The affected applicants will have to make other arrangements to receive those services without discounts from the Schools and Libraries program.

USAC maintains a [list of persons](#) suspended or debarred under the Schools and Libraries program and a link to the appropriate Notice for each person. USAC recently added the following information to each entry on the list:

- For Suspensions, the date of the FCC Notice of Suspension and Proposed Debarment.

- For Debarments, the date of the FCC Notice of Debarment and the term of the debarment.

Applicants and service providers may want to check this list occasionally as they plan their participation in various activities under the Schools and Libraries program.

The FCC rules governing suspension and debarment are located in Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) §54.521.

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