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Schools and Libraries News Brief

September 1, 2006

Commitments for Funding Years 2006 and 2005

Funding Year 2006. USAC will release FY2006 Wave 20 funding commitment decision letters (FCDLs) September 6. As of September 1, FY2006 commitments total just under \$629 million for approved Priority 1 requests (Telecommunications Services and Internet Access).

Funding Year 2005. USAC will release FY2005 Wave 56 FCDLs September 7. This wave will include commitments for approved Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance funding requests at 84% and above. As of September 1, 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 on Regional Training (Training for Success)

USAC's regional training sessions begin next week with the first session in Washington, DC September 7. The presentations for the training sessions are available on the [2006 Training Information](#) page of the Schools and Libraries section of the USAC website. All sessions will cover the same material.

Training this year has a different focus from years past. We are concentrating on making the entire application process — from technology planning to invoicing — successful for both applicants and service providers. To that end, the presentations focus on how to apply successfully, program enhancements, and new initiatives rather than a detailed set of sequential presentations that provide an overview of the entire program.

Following are a few points to keep in mind, even if you are not attending the training but are only viewing the presentation slides:

- USAC is working on an online version of the Billed Entity Applicant Reimbursement (BEAR) Form 472. We expect the online form to be available in October. Consequently, the presentation on the website only provides views of the current draft login screens. However, applicants and service providers should review the specific information in the presentation to understand how the notification process will work. It is especially important that USAC have a current email address on file for both the applicant and the service provider, as notifications of form status will be sent by email.
- USAC is also developing a Two-in-Five tool. This tool will allow applicants and service providers to check on the Two-in-Five status of individual recipients of service in a number of different ways (by entity, by FRN, by Form 471, and by SPIN). We expect this tool to also be available in October. Consequently, this presentation only includes partial screen shots of the tool in development. The presentation itself contains much useful information about how the Two-in-Five Rule will be implemented.
- For an overview of the program, you should review the [ABCs of E-rate](#) presentation from the fall of 2005. There is not a comparable presentation for this year's training.
- If you are interested in the enhancements to tools, forms, and outreach, you should review the Program Enhancements presentation.

For those of you who will be attending the training, also note:

- USAC will NOT provide printed copies of the presentations at the training sessions. You can download the training presentations onto a computer or bring printouts with you.
- There is a great deal of material to cover, so be prepared to start on time. The [agenda](#) also is posted on the [2006 Training Information](#) page.
- Conference rooms tend to be cold. Make sure to bring a sweater or jacket, even if the weather outside is warm.
- Don't be afraid to sit in the front of the room.
- Ask questions.
- There will be prizes.

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