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## Schools and Libraries News Brief

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September 8, 2006

**TIP OF THE WEEK:** Respond to Problem Resolution and Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) requests for information within 15 days. Remember that Summer Deferrals end on September 12, 2006.

### SL News Brief Kicks Off Its Second Year

Welcome to the second year of the Schools and Libraries News Brief. We will continue to provide you up-to-the-minute news on developments in the Schools and Libraries program along with guidance materials that will help both applicants and service providers through the application process.

SL News Briefs will continue to be emailed to recipients on Fridays. If you are not receiving your own copy of the News Brief, we encourage you to subscribe using the link at the bottom of each issue. You can also download a copy of any issues you miss from the [Schools and Libraries News Brief page](#).

### Commitments for Funding Year 2006

**Funding Year 2006.** USAC will release FY2006 Wave 21 Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLs) September 12. As of September 8, FY2006 commitments total just under \$638 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.

### Quick Website Tour

We are devoting this issue to a quick tour of the Schools and Libraries area of the USAC website. If you would like a visual depiction of each of the featured areas below to help you follow along, you can print or view slides #12-22 of the [Program Enhancements presentation](#) offered at this year's regional training sessions.

**Schools and Libraries main page.** The USAC main page address is now [www.usac.org](http://www.usac.org). To go directly to the Schools and Libraries area, you add "/sl" to that address: [www.usac.org/sl](http://www.usac.org/sl). At the top of each page are Help and Search links. On the left-hand side you can find navigational links that provide access to specific documents and tools. At the bottom of the page are Latest News and Reminder links to both short news features and timely reminders of program deadlines and other time-sensitive issues.

**Applicant and service provider steps.** Near the center of the main page are two blue bars – one for applicants and one for service providers. Each bar provides a list of steps in the application process. Each step links to a summary information page on that step, and each information page provides links in the upper right-hand corner to related documents such as forms, form instructions, detailed guidance, and specific examples.

**Search function.** At the top of each page is a search function for using keywords to locate specific documents or pages. If you type in a keyword and click on the arrow to the right of your entry, the search function will provide a list of pages from the Schools and Libraries area that feature that keyword. You can also broaden your search to other areas of the USAC website by clicking the appropriate boxes above the search results.

**Apply online.** To complete and/or certify an applicant form online, follow the [Apply Online](#) link in the Tools section on the left-hand side of any page. This page provides access to any

applicant form that can be filed online and includes both full and interview-style versions of the forms. Service providers can follow the [Required Forms](#) link instead to access the online Forms 474, 498 and 499A.

**Search tools.** The link to [Search Tools](#) on the left-hand side of any page takes you to a list of all the tools available for Schools and Libraries information. The list features the name of each tool and a short description of the information you can obtain by using the tool. The specific tool featured in the presentation (slide #17) – the [Deadlines](#) tool – provides a list of program forms and requests, and allows you to determine the deadline for your form or request. Note that in some instances you must first input data in order for the tool to calculate your deadline.

**Reference Area.** The Reference Area – again, a link on the left-hand side of any page – is a list of detailed program guidance documents presented alphabetically. Many of these documents are also linked to specific applicant and service provider steps, so this list provides a third means of searching for guidance on a specific topic or issue.

**Outreach and Training.** The [Outreach and Training](#) page provides a number of useful links. From this page, you can access information on training and training presentations from current and past years, agendas and minutes from the monthly service provider conference calls, and archived versions of Tip Sheets and News Briefs.

We invite you to explore the various features, tools, and guidance available on the website and we hope these are both useful and informative. If you have any comments about the layout or organization of the site, feel free to use the [Website Feedback](#) link located at the bottom of each page to communicate with us.

You may download and print copies of [Schools and Libraries News Briefs](#) on USAC's website. You may [subscribe](#) to or [unsubscribe](#) from this news brief. For program information, please visit the [Schools and Libraries area](#) of the USAC website, [submit a question](#), or call us toll-free at 1-888-203-8100. Feel free to forward this news brief to any interested parties.

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