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Schools and Libraries News Brief

October 13, 2006

TIP OF THE WEEK: Applicants – don't wait until the last minute to send BEAR Forms to your service providers for certification. Service providers may need some time to review the information on your BEAR Forms before they can certify them.

Commitments for Funding Years 2006 and 2005

Funding Year 2006. USAC will release FY2006 Wave 26 Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLs) October 17. As of October 13, FY2006 commitments total just under \$974 million for approved Priority 1 requests (Telecommunications Services and Internet Access).

Funding Year 2005. USAC will release FY2005 Wave 60 FCDLs October 16. This wave will include commitments for approved Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance funding requests at 81% and above. As of October 13, FY2005 commitments total just under \$1.85 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.

2006 Training Sessions Wrap Up in San Diego Next Week

Next week, USAC will conduct the last of seven regional training sessions for fall 2006. Applicants, service providers, state E-rate coordinators, trainers, consultants, and others have attended sessions in the following cities:

Washington, D.C.	September 7–8
Boston, Massachusetts	September 12–13
Seattle, Washington	September 20–21
Saint Louis, Missouri	September 27–28
Atlanta, Georgia	October 3–4
Houston, Texas	October 11–12
San Diego, California	October 19–20

You can access the training presentations from the [Outreach and Training](#) page on the USAC website. In addition, USAC will be posting other materials covered during the trainings after the final session occurs next week.

Questions that come up during the course of the training are answered at the end of each presentation or in a special question-and-answer session on the second day of the training. In addition, answers to questions of general interest will be included in News Briefs that cover the topics related to those questions.

The following general questions and answers from the training may help applicants and service providers as they prepare for the upcoming Funding Year 2007 application window.

How can I search posted Forms 470?

There are two tools on the USAC website that allow users to search posted Forms 470.

- Using the [Form 470 Search Posted](#) tool, you can set specific criteria, such as state, zip code, date Form 470 completed, applicant type, or category of service, and then

receive a list of posted Forms 470 that fit the criteria you selected. Then, you must choose one form at a time for your review from the list of results.

- The [Form 470 Download Reports](#) tool allows you to download information on posted Forms 470 in a delimited file. You can then sort and put that information in a format that is most useful for you.

How do I know if my service provider has filed a Service Provider Annual Certification (SPAC) Form?

Service providers must file a SPAC Form for each funding year in which they provide discounted services. USAC will not pay an invoice for services provided in a funding year unless USAC has a SPAC on file for that funding year.

To find this information, look up your service provider using the [SPIN Contact Search](#) tool. In the far right-hand column, you will see a list of all the funding years for which USAC has a SPAC on file for that service provider. You will also find service provider contact information in the same line.

Will USAC offer special training for service providers?

Many service providers have suggested that USAC offer training geared to service providers. Such training could include detailed information on the Form 498, e-notifications and e-invoicing, eligible services and cost allocations, Form 474, and other information that service providers would find useful as they participate in the program.

USAC is exploring the possibility of offering a one- or two-day training for service providers in the spring of 2007. Watch for details in future issues of the News Brief and on the USAC website.

I am planning to use a consultant this year. When should a signed agreement or Letter of Agency with my consultant be in place?

You must have a signed agreement with your consultant before the consultant takes an action on your behalf – such as the filing of a Form 470 or the writing of a technology plan. The agreement can be a contract, memorandum of understanding, letter of agency, or other document that expressly authorizes the consultant to act on your behalf.

You can refer to the [Letter of Agency](#) document on the USAC website for more information.

Form 470 Print Preview Function Improved

Some applicants have had difficulties with the Print Preview function for the online Form 470. In some cases, data from previous applications was cached on their computers and appeared when they tried to print other Forms 470. In other cases, the format of the printing was difficult to read.

USAC will complete work on improving the functionality of Print Preview this weekend. Beginning next week, the Print Preview function for the Form 470 online should be legible and include the appropriate data for the application being referenced.

If you notice any problems with the new Print Preview, please send a message to the Client Service Bureau using the [Submit a Question](#) feature. Choose the topic "Form 470" and the specific inquiry "I'm filing my Form 470 online and have a technical problem."

New Site Visit Training Initiative To Begin

USAC has conducted approximately 1,500 site visits to schools and libraries throughout the country since January 2005. Over the next year, USAC's Site Visit Training Initiative will include a pilot program of 100 visits with schools and libraries that have repeatedly struggled with the application process. USAC has already conducted four of these visits in Beaumont, Texas; St. Louis, Missouri; San Diego, California; and Hoboken, New Jersey.

The pilot program will provide individualized training and outreach to applicants that have undergone a selective review or have been denied funding on past applications. Program participants selected for a site visit under this pilot program are not required to give USAC a tour of the site, provide documentation, or display equipment unless the participant would like to do so.

The goal of these particular site visits is to provide outreach to applicants that have had difficulty complying with program rules. These visits will also provide USAC with a better understanding of where applicants and service providers have difficulties in the application process and how USAC can proactively assist them in meeting program rules and deadlines. USAC continues to build on its training and outreach efforts so that all applicants can receive eligible support under the Schools and Libraries Program.

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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