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Schools and Libraries News Brief

October 20, 2006

TIP OF THE WEEK : Applicants – don't wait until the last minute to submit your **Form 486 for Funding Year 2006**. If your Service Start Date is July 1, 2006 and your FCDL is dated on or before that date, your submission deadline is October 30, 2006.

Funding Year 2007 Filing Window Opens November 14

The Form 471 application filing window for Funding Year 2007 will open at noon EST on Tuesday, **November 14, 2006** and will close at 11:59 pm EST on Wednesday, **February 7, 2007**. The filing window will be open for 86 days.

On October 19, the FCC issued Public Notice FCC 06-158 releasing the FY2007 Eligible Services List. The FCC waived the requirement that the Eligible Services List be published at least 60 days before the commencement of the filing window and authorized USAC to open the window on November 14, 2006.

Note that the FY2007 Eligible Services List has important new information regarding interconnected Voice-over-Internet Protocol (VoIP), redundant components, installation and configuration (training), KVM switches, fees for Universal Service administration, and wireless Internet.

Please review [Public Notice FCC 06-158](#) and the [FY2007 Eligible Services List](#) carefully for expanded details. Also, please check the USAC website for further details in the coming weeks.

FCC Approves Priority 2 Commitment for Funding Year 2006

This week, the Federal Communications Commission approved the release of funding for FY2006 Priority 2 (Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections) commitments at the 90% discount level and the denial of FY2006 Priority 2 commitments at 60% and below. In addition, for FY2005, the FCC approved the denial of Priority 2 commitments at the 77%-79% discount level.

Commitments for Funding Years 2006 and 2005

Funding Year 2006. USAC will release FY2006 Wave 27 Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLs) October 24. As of October 20, FY2006 commitments total just over \$992 million for approved Priority 1 requests (Telecommunications Services and Internet Access).

Funding Year 2005. USAC will release FY2005 Wave 61 FCDLs October 23. This wave will include commitments for approved Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance funding requests at 81% and above. As of October 20, 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.

Online BEAR Form Scheduled to be Launched in Mid-November

USAC plans to launch the online version of the BEAR Form (FCC Form 472) in mid-November. Both the applicant and service provider will be able to submit their respective sections of the form online, which will be much faster and easier than paper submission. However, the option to file and certify on paper will continue to be available.

The online BEAR Form is in the final stages of testing and, based on test results, will go live in mid-November. Look for more details in the near future.

FY 2005 Invoicing Deadline

Remember that the invoicing deadline for Funding Year 2005 recurring (monthly) services is Monday, **October 30, 2006**. If you will need additional time to obtain the necessary certifications, please follow the guidance in [Invoice Deadlines and Extension Requests](#) as soon as possible to request an extension.

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