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Schools and Libraries News Brief

October 27, 2006

TIP OF THE WEEK: Once you have completed invoicing and received reimbursements or discounts for all your FY2005 services, organize and file your documents for that year. Remember that, according to FCC rules, you must retain documentation for five years after the last date to receive service.

Commitments for Funding Years 2006 and 2005

Funding Year 2006. USAC will release FY2006 Wave 28 Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLs) October 31. This wave will include commitments for approved Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance funding requests at 90%. As of October 27, FY2006 commitments total just under \$1.31 billion.

Funding Year 2005. USAC will release FY2005 Wave 62 FCDLs November 1. This wave will include commitments for approved Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance funding requests at 81% and above. As of October 27, 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.

Update on Funding Year 2007 Eligible Services List

As we announced last week, the FCC released the FY2007 Eligible Services List on October 19, 2006. **This list covers products and services for the funding year starting on July 1, 2007.**

The [Eligible Services List page](#) continues to feature the [FY2006 Eligible Services List](#) for reference as well as the new [FY2007 Eligible Services List](#). The FY2007 list includes hyperlinks and other navigation aids.

In the coming weeks, USAC will be providing additional insight into particular entries in the FY2007 Eligible Services List. For now, here are some of the principal updates and clarifications for the FY2007 list:

Overall changes. The 2007 Eligible Services List is 49 pages and includes a 19-page Glossary and a five-page Index. By comparison, the FY2006 Eligible Services List was 71 pages. Note, however, that because this reduction was achieved largely by consolidating redundant entries, there is no net loss of information in the detailed guidance on the essential eligibility of products and services.

Interconnected Voice over IP. The FCC has added interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (Interconnected VoIP) to the FY2007 list as an eligible service. Eligibility for VoIP is limited to services that connect to the public switched telephone network (i.e., voice services). Therefore, direct connectivity between sites for video interconnectivity remains ineligible in the Internet Access category of service.

Applicants can apply for VoIP services in the Telecommunications Services or the Internet Access category of service. However, applicants that intend to request VoIP services may wish to post for both categories of service on their Forms 470 (see below).

Wireless Internet access designed for portable electronic devices. USAC will fund Internet access designed for portable electronic devices, such as email services on Blackberry

and cell phone devices. Wireless access services for laptop computers are also eligible. Remember the presumption that such access is provided for [Educational Purposes](#).

Redundant components. Components that are installed in standby mode, are redundant, or are not active and in service are not eligible.

Applicants should be sure that their FCC Form 470 indicates ALL categories of service for which they desire services. For example, Internet access services (including email) can, in some cases, be requested in the category of Telecommunications Services. However, applicants considering these services must specify on FCC Form 470 that they are seeking Internet Access by completing Item 9.

For those applicants that are unsure about the correct category of Priority 1 services being requested, USAC strongly recommends that they complete both Item 8 (Telecommunications Services) and Item 9 (Internet Access) on the Form 470. Additionally, if a Request for Proposals (RFP) is or will be issued, that RFP should indicate the specific products and services being sought.

Form 486 Deadlines October 30 and Beyond

The deadline for a Form 486 (Receipt of Service Confirmation Form) depends on two dates:

- The Service Start Date reported on the Form 486
- The date of the FCDL

The Form 486 deadline is 120 days after the later of these two dates. The consequence for missing the deadline is that USAC adjusts the Service Start Date to 120 days before the postmark date of the form and will not provide discounts for services delivered before that date.

For many FY2006 applicants, **October 30** marks the deadline for the Form 486. This is because their Service Start Date is July 1, 2006 and their FCDL was issued on or before that date. However, other FY2006 applicants have a later deadline – and some FY2005 applicants have a later deadline as well.

As an example, here are the Form 486 deadlines for specific waves of FCDLs for those two funding years, assuming services started on the first day of the funding year. Note that these deadlines all occur after October 30.

Funding Year	Wave Number	FCDL Date	Form 486 Deadline
2006	011	07/06/2006	11/03/2006
2006	012	07/11/2006	11/08/2006
2006	013	07/18/2006	11/15/2006
2006	014	07/25/2006	11/22/2006
2005	052	07/12/2006	11/09/2006
2005	053	08/16/2006	12/14/2006
2005	054	08/23/2006	12/21/2006
2005	055	08/30/2006	12/28/2006

To determine the deadline for a particular Form 486, go to the [Deadlines tool](#) on the USAC website and choose the Form 486 tab. You will be asked to enter your Service Start Date and the date of your FCDL, and the system will then calculate your deadline. Remember that if the calculated deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or federal holiday, your deadline becomes the next business day.

Although USAC will be doing outreach to obtain Forms 486 and Form 486 Certifications not received or postmarked by the appropriate deadline, it is to your advantage to complete the filing of your Form 486 on or before the deadline.

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