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Schools and Libraries News Brief

June 15, 2007

TIP OF THE WEEK: To speed processing and avoid confusion, do not submit change requests (e.g., service delivery extension requests, SPIN changes, service substitutions, etc.) together in the same envelope. Note also that [service substitution requests](#) that do not include the four required certifications will be considered incomplete and cannot be processed without those certifications.

Commitments for Funding Year 2007

Funding Year 2007. USAC will release FY2007 Wave 7 Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLs) June 19. This wave will include commitments for approvals of Priority 1 requests (Telecommunications Services and Internet Access) for schools and libraries at all discount levels. As of June 15, FY2007 commitments total just under \$368 million.

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.

FCC Directs USAC to Carry Forward \$650 Million to FY2007

The FCC has announced that \$650 million in unused Schools and Libraries funds from FY2001, FY2002, FY2003, and FY2004 will be carried forward to FY2007. As a result, USAC will be able to make funding commitments for schools and libraries for FY2007 in excess of the annual \$2.25 billion cap.

For more information, please refer to [Public Notice DA 07-2470](#).

Increased Size for FCDL Comment Field

In the past, Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) stopped the review of an application the first time a reason for denial was identified during the review process. Starting with FY2007, PIA will review each application in its entirety and identify all of the reasons that led to the reduction or denial of a Funding Request Number (FRN). Each of these reasons will be included in the "Funding Commitment Decision Explanation" (the "FCDL comment") field for that FRN in the Funding Commitment Report attached to the FCDL. In order to accomplish this, USAC will increase the size of this field from 275 characters to 2000 characters.

In the near future, the FCDL comment field in FY2007 FCDLs will contain all denial reasons for a particular FRN, along with as much additional information as the PIA reviewer can include in the expanded field. Each FRN will appear on its own page in the Funding Commitment Report in order to accommodate this increased length.

If two or more denial reasons apply to the same FRN, they will be contained in one long text field and separated by five sets of angle brackets (<>). In addition, if there are multiple comments, each comment will be numbered and further categorized by one of the following codes:

- CR = cancel reason
- DR = denial reason
- MR = modify reason

Following is a sample of what could be contained in an FCDL comment field. Note that the first two comments include specific information added by the reviewer:

Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: MR1. The technology plan that supports this FRN only covers part of the funding year. Therefore, the recurring funds have been reduced to reflect the timeframe covered by the technology plan. <><><><><> MR2. The dollars requested were reduced to remove: the ineligible product(s)/service(s) Computer monitor \$178. <><><>

<><> MR3. The site-specific discount was reduced to a level that could be validated based on third-party data.

Because the Funding Commitment Report is generated separately from the FCDL, FRNs will now appear one to a page on FCDLs for every funding year. However, only the FY2007 Funding Commitment Reports will contain more than one denial reason. The FCDL comment fields in FCDLs issued for previous funding years will not contain more than one denial reason even though the report will still be formatted with one FRN to a page.

Update to Two-in-Five Tool

USAC has updated the [Two-in-Five Tool](#) to provide more information on entities ineligible for funding.

The tool allows you to request the Two-in-Five status of entities by entering Entity Numbers, Service Provider Identification Numbers (SPINs), Form 471 Application Numbers, or FRNs. In addition, if you now click on the status "Not Eligible" in a particular line and funding year, you will see a spreadsheet of all the FRNs featuring that entity and the funding status of each of those FRNs.

Using this information you can quickly determine which FRN(s) caused the Two-in-Five status to change to "Not Eligible." Moreover, if the status of one or more FRNs is "DISBURSED," you will know that you cannot regain a year by canceling your commitments using a Form 500.

Note that, if you view the detail spreadsheet and then wish to return to the previous screen, you must use the link "2-in-5 Eligibility Connections Eligibility Summary" that appears at the top of the page.

Last Day to File PDF Version of Online Form 486

Today is the last day to file a Form 486 online using the existing PDF interface. If you begin your work today but do not click the "Submit" button, you will have to finish your work using the [Form 486 Interview](#).

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