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Schools and Libraries News Brief

November 9, 2007

TIP OF THE WEEK: File your FY2008 Form 470 now for tariffed and month-to-month services if state or local procurement regulations allow you to do so. You can file more than one Form 470 for a funding year, which may be helpful if you are also seeking services provided under contract and your state or local procurement regulations are different for contracted services.

Commitments for Funding Year 2007

Funding Year 2007. USAC will release FY2007 Wave 28 Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLs) November 13. This wave will include commitments for approved Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance requests at 83% and above. As of November 9, FY2007 commitments total just under \$1.68 billion.

On the day after the FCDLs are mailed, you can check to see if you have a commitment by using USAC's [Automated Search of Commitments](#) tool.

Changes to Eligible Services List for FY2008

As we announced in the [October 26, 2007 SL News Brief](#), the FCC released the [FY2008 Eligible Services List \(ESL\)](#) October 19, 2007. **This list covers products and services for the funding year starting July 1, 2008.**

In the coming weeks, USAC will be providing additional insight into particular entries in the FY2008 Eligible Services List. For now, here are the principal updates and clarifications for the FY2008 list:

Centrex: Centrex service is treated as basic telephone service. Applicants that apply only for basic telephone service and Centrex service in FY2008 will not be required to prepare a technology plan.

Internet Access for distance learning: Basic conduit access to the Internet for the purpose of accessing distance learning and video conferencing is eligible for funding in the Internet Access category but distance learning and video conferencing tools are NOT ELIGIBLE for funding.

- The charges for web meetings or online collaboration solutions for the provision of distance learning or video conferencing charges (e.g., web meetings or online collaboration solutions) are NOT ELIGIBLE for funding.
- A point-to-point connection (e.g., an ISDN line) for distance learning or video conferencing is NOT ELIGIBLE as Internet Access and may only be provided by service providers eligible to provide Telecommunications Services.

Broadband over power lines (BPL): Applicants can request funding for the transmission component of BPL as a Telecommunications Service. This new entry appears under "Digital Transmission Services."

- Digital transmission services refer to data links that connect multiple points using any available technology. BPL is equivalent to other forms of Digital Transmission Services including T-1s, DSL, DS-3 and Wireless Access services.

BPL-enabled Internet Access service: Applicants can request funding for BPL-enabled Internet Access service under the Internet Access category if the service is bundled with the Internet Access. This entry appears under "Internet Access."

- Basic conduit access to the Internet is eligible regardless of technology platform and BPL is an eligible Internet Access service.

Ancillary calendaring functions: Program participants are not required to provide cost allocations for calendaring functions ancillary to email services.

Web hosting: The Funding is limited strictly to the following eligible web hosting functions:

- Provision of website traffic (bandwidth)
- Provision of disk space for storing applicant provided content
- Provision of File Transfer Protocol (FTP) transfer or a web interface to upload files

Domain name registration necessary for the creation of a school or library website is also eligible for funding.

Failover products or services: "Failover" products or services have been added to the list of miscellaneous components that are NOT ELIGIBLE for funding.

Form 486 Urgent Reminder Letters

If the Service Start Date for a Funding Request Number (FRN) for FY2007 was July 1, 2007 and your FCDL was issued on or before that date, then your deadline to submit and certify a Form 486 for that FRN was October 29, 2007.

However, please note that USAC will now remind you if your Form 486 appears to be late and give you a chance to file your Form 486 without penalty. Here are the steps USAC takes in this situation:

- USAC looks at the Service Start Date you reported in Item 19 of the Form 471, the date of your FCDL, and today's date.
- When today's date is more than 120 days after the later of the two Program dates, the system then checks to see if a Form 486 has been submitted and/or certified.
- If a Form 486 has not been submitted, USAC issues a Form 486 Urgent Reminder Letter. You have 20 days from the date of that letter to submit and certify a Form 486.
- If a Form 486 has been submitted online but not certified, USAC issues a Form 486 Urgent Reminder Letter. You have 20 days to certify the Form 486 either online or on paper.

If you miss the extended (20-day) deadline, USAC will adjust your Service Start Date to the date 120 days before the date your Form 486 was certified online or postmarked.

- If you are receiving recurring services, USAC may also reduce your funding commitment.
- If you are receiving non-recurring services, USAC will not pay invoices for services delivered or installed before the adjusted Service Start Date.

USAC will send only one reminder letter per FRN following the process outlined above. This means that:

- If you file your Form 486 online within the 20-day deadline but certify it after the deadline, USAC will reset your Service Start Date as described above without an additional notification that your Form 486 was not certified within the deadline.
- If your actual Service Start Date (the Service Start Date you report on the Form 486) is later than the Service Start Date you reported on the Form 471, USAC will issue the Form 486 Urgent Reminder Letter based on the Form 471 Service Start Date.
- If your Service Start Date or the date on your FCDL is after July 1, 2007, USAC will determine if and when you should receive a Form 486 Urgent Reminder Letter by following the process described above.

To determine the Form 486 deadline for an FRN, 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.

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