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Schools and Libraries News Brief

April 4, 2008

TIP OF THE WEEK: If you have not yet certified a Form 470 that you cited in Item 12 of a Form 471 Block 5 funding request, you should [certify it online](#) or on paper as soon as possible. PIA will remind you if a cited Form 470 has not been certified but your certification will then become subject to the 15-day response deadline.

Commitments for Funding Year 2007

Funding Year 2007. USAC will release FY2007 Wave 45 Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLs) April 8. This wave will include commitments for approved Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance requests at 83% and above and denials at 79% and below. As of April 4, FY2007 commitments total just over \$2.03 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.

Service Provider Training Registration Update

Service providers can still register for the service provider training sessions to be held May 8 in Miami and May 14 in Salt Lake City. As of 4:30 p.m. EDT yesterday, we had 175 registrations confirmed for Miami and 78 for Salt Lake City.

You can find detailed information on both sessions – including hotel rates and locations – on the [2008 Service Provider Training Information page](#). For those of you who are interested, note that the Miami training session will conclude with an information session on the Rural Health Care Pilot Program.

To cancel or change a registration or for more information about the training, [email USAC Training](#) or call 877-883-1786 ext. 408.

Head Start Information Added to Eligibility Table

In some situations, non-traditional – specifically, pre-kindergarten, juvenile justice, and adult education – students and/or facilities may be eligible to receive discounted services. In all cases, schools must meet the statutory definition of elementary and/or secondary school found in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Facilities must also be considered schools by the state in which they are located.

In the [Reference Area](#) of the USAC website, you can find an [Eligibility Table for Non-traditional K-12 Students and Facilities](#) that provides eligibility determinations for pre-kindergarten, juvenile justice, and adult education students and facilities on a state-by-state basis. If specific conditions apply in a particular state, the table entry for that state is footnoted to explain those conditions.

Every other year, USAC sends a letter to each state department of education asking for verification of the information currently on file with USAC. If a state provides new information, USAC reviews it to see if one or more of the entries in the Eligibility Table should be updated.

This year, USAC included questions on Head Start in its communication to the states. Based on the responses received so far, USAC has added an additional column on the left-hand side of this table and updated the [guidance on Non-traditional Elementary and Secondary Education](#) to provide eligibility information on Head Start students and facilities.

A Head Start facility must meet two tests in order to be considered eligible for discounts:

- The Head Start facility must meet the statutory definition of elementary school under federal and state law.

- The state in which the Head Start facility is located must consider the facility to be a school.

Home-based Head Start programs are not eligible for discounts under any circumstances.

The eligibility table contains a number of comments to clearly define the eligibility of Head Start students and facilities in each state. Note that, while services to students less than three years old are not eligible for discounts, some states set higher age limits. As a result, Head Start facilities will be asked during Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) review to cost allocate services provided to ineligible students.

Below is a list of the comments in the eligibility table that may need additional explanation:

- **Not yet confirmed.** USAC has asked for information from the state department of education or for a confirmation of information already provided. Either the department has not yet responded or USAC needs some additional information and will be contacting the department in the near future.
- **Yes, if part of a public school district ...** Head Start programs that are run from public schools can apply as part of the school's application or they can apply on their own. During PIA review, USAC may ask for the name of the Head Start program's public school district or request additional information.
- **Yes, if ... a stand-alone facility recognized by the state (hyperlink).** Click on the link to view a list of Head Start facilities that are eligible in the state. If a facility is not on the list, USAC requires a confirmation from the state that that facility is eligible, or the facility will be removed from the funding request and the dollars requested will be modified appropriately.
- **Yes, if ... a stand-alone facility recognized by the state (no hyperlink).** You must contact your state department of education to find out if a particular facility is considered eligible by the state. However, USAC will require verification that a facility is eligible, or the funding request will be modified appropriately.

If you believe that a facility in your state is eligible and it does not appear in a list on our website, you should contact your state department of education to get more information. Also, if the Eligibility Table indicates that USAC has not heard back from your state, you can encourage your state department of education to respond to USAC's questions.

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