

[Back](#) [header](#)

## Schools and Libraries News Brief

May 16, 2008

**TIP OF THE WEEK:** Verify that the contact information on your Form 471 is correct so that PIA can contact you with questions and remind you to file your **Item 21 attachments**. If the information on one or more of your program forms is incorrect, use the procedure described in the document [Contact Information Changes](#) to correct it.

### Commitments for Funding Years 2008 and 2007

**Funding Year 2008.** USAC will release FY2008 Wave 4 Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLs) May 20. This wave will include commitments for approved Priority 1 requests (Telecommunications Services and Internet Access) for schools and libraries at all discount levels. As of May 16, FY2008 commitments total just under \$470 million.

**Funding Year 2007.** USAC will release FY2007 Wave 51 FCDLs May 19. This wave will include commitments for approved Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance requests at 81% and above and denials at 80% and below. As of May 16, FY2007 commitments total just under \$2.33 billion.

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

### Schools and Libraries Training Site Unavailable

USAC maintains a [training site](#) that mimics the official [Apply Online page](#). Trainers can use the site for teaching and training purposes, and anyone can practice filing and certifying the program forms that are available online. Note that any forms submitted on this site will not be processed or reviewed.

The training site will be taken offline this evening at 5:00 p.m. EDT for extended maintenance and will not be available again until Tuesday, May 27, 2008. This extended maintenance will allow us to make some necessary improvements but will not change the functionality of any of the program forms and tools on the site.

We apologize for any inconvenience.

### FY2008 Form 486 Notification Letters Will Be Mailed May 21

On May 21, USAC will issue the first FY2008 Form 486 Notification Letters. These are USAC's notification that the Forms 486 cited in the letters have been successfully processed. USAC issues both an [applicant version](#) and a [service provider version](#) of this letter.

In some cases, USAC may be required by program rules to adjust the service start date reported by the applicant when the Form 486 was filed. If USAC has adjusted the date, it will be marked with an asterisk (\*) in the Report attached to the Form 486 Notification Letter. Remember that USAC will not pay discounts on services delivered for a Funding Request Number (FRN) before the service start date for that FRN featured in the Form 486 Notification Letter.

### CIPA Requirements and Form 486

Applicants that file a Form 486 early must be able to accurately make all of the certifications on the form, including the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) certifications in Item 11. As a reminder, the requirements and timelines for CIPA compliance are listed below.

#### CIPA requirements

In general, CIPA requires schools and libraries receiving discounts on Internet Access, Internal Connections, and/or Basic Maintenance services to certify that they are enforcing a policy of

Internet safety that includes measures to block or filter Internet access for both minors and adults to certain visual depictions.

To receive discounted services, your school or library authority must certify that:

- You are in compliance with CIPA, or
- You are undertaking actions to comply with CIPA, or
- CIPA does not apply because you are receiving discounts for Telecommunications Services only.

There are three basic requirements for CIPA: a technology protection measure, an Internet safety policy, and a reasonable public notice and public hearing on the policy.

#### **- Technology protection measure (filter)**

To be in compliance with CIPA, schools and libraries must have a technology protection measure. This is a specific technology, such as a filter, that blocks or filters certain Internet material. It must protect against access to child pornography, visual depictions that are obscene, or — when Internet access is used by minors — material that may be harmful to minors. It may be disabled for adults engaged in bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

#### **- Internet safety policy**

Schools and libraries also must have an Internet safety policy. For schools, the policy must include monitoring the online activities of minors. The policy must address the following issues:

- Access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and World Wide Web
- The safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communication
- Unauthorized access including "hacking" and other unlawful activities by minors online
- Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors
- Measures designed to restrict minors' access to material harmful to minors

#### **- Reasonable public notice and hearing**

Your proposed Internet safety policy, including the technology protection measure, must be addressed at a public hearing for which you provide reasonable public notice. For private schools, the notice can be provided to the constituent community rather than the public at large.

#### **Timetable for compliance with CIPA**

Beginning with Funding Year 2001, your First Funding Year for purposes of CIPA is the first year in which all of the following events occur:

- You apply for funding for discounted services in the categories of Internet Access, Internal Connections, and/or Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections.
- USAC funds one or more of those funding requests – i.e., USAC makes a positive commitment on one or more of the FRNs associated with your funding requests.
- You successfully file a Form 486 for one or more of the funded FRNs.

In your First Funding Year, you can be undertaking actions to comply with CIPA. If you are unfamiliar with CIPA or you want more information on this topic, refer to the "Documentation for 'Undertaking Actions'" section of the [website guidance on CIPA](#).

Your Second Funding Year for purposes of CIPA is always the funding year following your First Funding Year, even if you apply for Telecommunications Services only or if you don't apply at all. In general, you must be in compliance with CIPA at the beginning of your Second Funding Year. You can request a waiver of CIPA requirements for your Second Funding Year, but only if you are prevented from certifying compliance because of state or local procurement rules or regulations or competitive bidding requirements. You cannot request a waiver simply because you aren't yet in compliance.

You must be in compliance with CIPA at the beginning of your Third Funding Year.

For specific information and guidance on CIPA, refer to the [Form 486](#), the [Form 486 Instructions](#), and [Applicant Step 10, Children's Internet Protection Act](#).

You may download and print copies of [Schools and Libraries News Briefs](#) on USAC's website. You may [subscribe](#) to or [unsubscribe](#) from this news brief. For program information, please visit the [Schools and Libraries area](#) of the USAC website, [submit a question](#), or call us toll-free at 1-888-203-8100. Feel free to forward this news brief to any interested parties.

Please do not reply to this email directly, as it was sent from an unattended mailbox.

1997-2008, Universal Service Administrative Company, All Rights Reserved.

[Back](#)