

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

Schools and Libraries News Brief

July 3, 2008

TIP OF THE WEEK: If you are having trouble finding a [USAC-certified Technology Plan Approver \(TPA\)](#), we recommend that you email USAC to request assistance instead of choosing a TPA at random. Go to [Submit a Question](#), choose "Technology Planning" from the Topic Menu, then choose "I can't find my Tech Plan Approver on your website."

Commitments for Funding Years 2008 and 2007

Funding Year 2008. USAC will release FY2008 Wave 11 Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLs) July 8. 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 July 3, FY2008 commitments total just under \$668 million.

Funding Year 2007. USAC will not issue a funding wave for FY2007 next week.

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.

How to Track Non-Regular Waves

In general, USAC issues a wave of funding commitments each week for the funding year(s) currently being reviewed and processed. However, USAC also issues occasional waves for current and previous funding years as additional reviews are completed or appeal decisions are reached. Below we explain more about these non-regular waves and how to find information about the commitments in these waves.

Previous year funding waves

Once the majority of the funding decisions that can be made for a funding year are reached, the following chain of events occurs:

- The final funding and denial thresholds for Priority 2 services are set. For example, for FY2006, funding was sufficient to fund approved requests for Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance at the 86% discount level but not at 85% and below. Consequently, funding requests at 85% and below were denied for threshold. Note that in some years the funding and denial thresholds are set before the last regular wave is issued.
- USAC issues letters to those applicants and service providers that have applications still in process. These letters verify that USAC has the applications and provide a short description of the reason that USAC is not yet able to reach a funding decision. If USAC is actively working with the applicant, however, a letter will not be issued.
- USAC stops issuing regular weekly waves for that funding year.
- USAC continues to review applications and issues occasional waves as decisions are reached. These occasional waves are designated with the number of the last regular wave plus a letter. For example, the last regular wave for FY2006 was Wave 60, the first occasional wave was Wave 60A, the second occasional wave was Wave 60B, and so on. (Note that wave numbers are always stored as three digits in the USAC database, so these three waves would be designated 060, 60A, and 60B.)

Appeal waves

Applicants and service providers can appeal USAC decisions either to USAC or to the FCC. If the appeal of a USAC funding decision is successful, USAC will include it in an appeal wave. Each appeal wave is specific to a funding year. The Revised FCDLs in an appeal wave notify both applicants and service providers of revised funding commitments.

Appeal waves are designated with an "A" and a two-digit number. For example, the first appeal wave for a funding year is designated A01, the second appeal wave is A02, and so on.

Post-commitment split FRNs

In some cases, USAC must create a new Funding Request Number (FRN) after an FCDL is issued. Usually this occurs because an applicant has changed service providers in the middle of a funding year and the commitment must be split between the old and the new service providers. When this occurs, USAC creates a new FRN and processes the revision to the commitment by including it in an appeal wave. Appeal waves can therefore contain commitments other than those that result from successful appeals.

Locating information on non-regular waves

Occasional waves are included in the Automated Search of Commitments, but appeal waves are not. However, you can find more information on commitments in all waves using the [Data Retrieval Tool \(DRT\)](#).

Each month, USAC posts a complete list of all appeal waves and all prior year funding waves that were issued for that month on the [Prior Year Wave Information page](#). You can access this page from the [Outreach and Training link](#) on any Schools and Libraries web page. From this list you can retrieve the wave number for the wave you are interested in.

Once you have the wave number, you can then go to the DRT. To perform a search using the DRT, start by providing two pieces of information:

- Funding Year
- State, Billed Entity Number (BEN), or Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN)

If you are interested in a particular wave, you then enter the three-digit wave number.

- Use the Wave Number entry field for regular commitment wave numbers and occasional commitment wave numbers.
- Use the Appeal Wave Number entry field for appeal wave numbers.

Keep in mind that an FRN that has gone through both the commitment process and an appeal process can feature both a wave number and an appeal wave number. To get the most complete information, use the appeal wave number for your search.

At this point you can choose "Select Standard Report" for a report with a few pre-set fields or "Select Data Points" to specify the fields you are interested in. You can consult the [DRT Instructions pages](#) for more information about using the advanced features of this tool including definitions of the available fields.

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[Back](#)