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## Schools and Libraries News Brief

**August 8, 2008**

**TIP OF THE WEEK:** If you file a BEAR Form 472 using the [online BEAR system](#), **don't submit a paper copy of the same form.** Doing so will result in the creation of a duplicate invoice and may delay payment. Remember that you can use the online BEAR system to check the status of BEAR Forms you have submitted.

### Commitments for Funding Years 2008 and 2007

**Funding Year 2008.** USAC will release FY2008 Wave 18 Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLs) August 12. This wave will include commitments for approved Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance requests at 90% and denials at 79% and below. As of August 8, FY2008 commitments total just under \$1.04 billion.

**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.

### Fall Training Update

This fall, USAC will offer seven training sessions at locations around the country. You can register for a session and get hotel reservation information from the [Training Information page](#) on the USAC website.

USAC has already started waiting lists for the training sessions that have reached capacity. These sessions are marked "- FULL -" on the table below. If your plans change, please be sure to cancel your training registration and your hotel reservation so that someone from the waiting list can attend the training.

Below is a list of the cities, dates, and number of registrants as of August 7 at 9:00 a.m. EDT:

City	Dates	Number of Registrants
Washington, DC	September 11-12	- FULL -
Seattle, WA	September 16-17	170
Denver, CO	September 23-24	176
Chicago, IL	October 2-3	- FULL -
Newark, NJ	October 6-7	196
Los Angeles, CA	October 15-16	- FULL -
Atlanta, GA	October 21-22	234

If you have questions, [email USAC Training](#) or call 1-877-883-1786 ext. 408.

### Quarterly Disbursement Reports Mailed

Due to technical issues, USAC was unable to issue the second quarter Quarterly Disbursement Reports in July. These reports have now been printed and mailed featuring a date of June 30, 2008.

As a reminder, Quarterly Disbursement Reports are mailed to the authorized person on the most recent Form 471 and feature a summary of all disbursements for all funding years made during the quarter.

### **FY2009 Draft Eligible Services List and NPRM**

On July 31, the FCC issued two notices related to eligible services for FY2009:

- A [Public Notice \(FCC 08-180\)](#) that seeks comment on the draft FY2009 Eligible Services List proposed by USAC.
- A [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking \(FCC 08-173\)](#) that seeks comment on whether certain services should be designated as eligible for funding.

### **FY2009 Draft Eligible Services List**

The draft FY2009 Eligible Services List, which is attached to the Public Notice, includes the following proposed changes from FY2008:

- a clarification that Ethernet is an eligible digital transmission technology.
- a clarification that email archiving is an ineligible component of an email service. The draft also clarifies that email storage is limited to eligible email files and is not intended for email archiving.
- a proposal to list intranet web hosting as an ineligible feature of an eligible web hosting service.
- a clarification that Video On-Demand servers are not eligible for discounts.
- a clarification that softphones are end user equipment not eligible for discounts.
- the addition of software user licenses for Interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) systems.
- a reminder to providers of Interconnected VoIP services that they must contribute to the universal service fund if not de minimis.

Comments on the draft Eligible Services List are due on or before August 14, 2008 and reply comments are due on or before August 21, 2008. Note that this proceeding is limited to determining what services are eligible under the FCC's current rules. It is not intended to be a vehicle for changing any eligibility rules.

### **Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)**

In the NPRM, the FCC seeks comment on whether the following services should be eligible for discounts under the E-rate program:

- filtering software
- a broader classification of basic telephone service
- dark fiber
- text messaging
- firewall service
- anti-virus/anti-spam software
- scheduling services
- telephone broadcast messaging
- certain wireless Internet access applications, such as those used on school buses to transmit information, track students, or locate buses with GPS technology

In addition, the FCC seeks comment on whether Interconnected VoIP should be retained as an eligible service for future funding years.

The due dates for comments and reply comments depend on the date of the publication of the NPRM in the [Federal Register](#). Comments are due 30 days after this publication date and reply comments are due 45 days after this publication date. We will post a notice in the SL News Brief and on the USAC website when the notice is published and the dates are set.

### **How to submit comments**

Each year, the FCC seeks comment on the draft Eligible Services List for the upcoming funding year. Comments can include suggested language for entries in the list that may be confusing or information on new or existing technologies that may fit a service that is currently eligible. Remember that once the FCC issues the final FY2009 Eligible Services List, entries in that list will govern eligibility determinations for that funding year.

To submit comments, follow the instructions in the Public Notice or the NPRM. In particular, you can use the online filing option available with the [FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System \(ECFS\)](#). This system allows you to send a brief comment via email or to prepare and send an attachment electronically if your comments are more extensive.

Remember to always reference the proceeding or docket number "**02-6**" when filing comments.

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