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Schools and Libraries News Brief

July 17, 2009

TIP OF THE WEEK: If you are registered for one of the fall applicant training sessions, you can use the information on the registration page to reserve a room at the conference hotel. Note that registering with USAC for a training session does not notify the hotel that you want to reserve a room.

Commitments for Funding Years 2009 and 2008

Funding Year 2009. USAC will release FY2009 Wave 13 Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLs) July 21. This wave includes commitments for approved Priority 1 requests (Telecommunications Services and Internet Access) for schools and libraries at all discount levels. As of July 17, FY2009 commitments total just under \$603 million.

Funding Year 2008. USAC will release FY2008 Wave 61 FCDLs July 22. This wave includes commitments for approved Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance requests at 88% and above and denials at 86% and below. As of July 17, FY2008 commitments total just under \$2.35 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.

Update on Fall Applicant Training

Registration lists for USAC's fall applicant training sessions are filling up quickly. If you are interested in attending training, visit the [2009 Schools and Libraries Fall Applicant Trainings page](#) and register for the training that is most convenient for you. You can also find information on the conference hotel for each session.

Currently there is still space available in Orlando, Portland, and Atlanta. When registration is full for a particular location, USAC will start a waiting list. If your plans change, please [email USAC](#) to cancel your registration so USAC can open a slot for someone else.

How to Track Non-regular Waves

In general, USAC issues a wave of funding commitments each week for applications from 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 occasional funding waves

Although USAC stops issuing regular weekly waves for a funding year once most of the funding commitments have been issued, USAC continues to review applications for that funding year and issues occasional waves as decisions can be reached on remaining applications.

These occasional waves are designated with the number of the last regular wave for that funding year followed by a letter. For example, because the last regular wave for FY2007 was Wave 80, the first occasional wave was Wave 80A, the second occasional wave was Wave 80B, and so on. Wave numbers are always stored as three digits in the USAC database, so these three waves are numbered 080, 80A, and 80B.

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 and original or additional funding can be committed for a Funding Request Number (FRN), the funding will be committed in an appeal wave. Each appeal wave is specific to a funding year, and the FRNs originally featured on FCDLs for that funding year continue to be associated with that funding year. USAC issues

Revised FCDLs in an appeal wave to notify both applicants and service providers of revised funding commitments.

Appeal waves are designated with an "A" preceding 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 FRN after an FCDL is issued. Generally this occurs because the 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 an FRN is split, USAC creates a new FRN and processes the revision to the commitment by including it in an appeal wave. The revision process consists of:

- Calculating the amount of funding to be removed from the original FRN and applied to the new FRN, which may include recapturing funds if service costs decrease.
- Reducing the committed amount on the original FRN.
- Creating a new FRN with a committed amount based on the supporting documentation provided by the applicant. The sum of the revised commitments for the original FRN and the new FRN cannot exceed the total amount originally committed on the original FRN.

Appeal waves can therefore contain changes to commitments other than those that result from successful appeals.

Locating information on non-regular waves

Each month, beginning with August 2007, USAC posts a complete list of all appeal waves and all prior year occasional funding waves 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.

Occasional funding waves – those that contain original commitments but that were issued after regular waves ended – are included in the [Automated Search of Commitments search page](#). If you know the number of the wave and the state you are interested in, you can go to the search page for this tool and either:

- Click on the funding year, then click on the wave number, then click on the committed amount for that state from the list of states, or
- In the Basic Search box, enter the funding year, state, and wave number separated by spaces and click "Search." For example, if you wanted to look at commitments for Alabama for FY2006 Wave 60R, you would enter "2006 AL 60R" and click "Search."

For detailed information on using the Automated Search of Commitments, review the instructions on the [Automated Search of Commitments Welcome page](#) on the USAC website.

Appeal waves and new FRNs created in a post-commitment FRN split are not included in the Automated Search of Commitments. However, you can find more information on commitments in all types of waves using the [Data Retrieval Tool \(DRT\)](#).

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 was included in an appeal wave can feature both a wave number and an appeal wave number. However, you do not need to enter both numbers to get information on that FRN.

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 page](#) for more information about using the advanced features of this tool including definitions of the available fields.

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