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Schools and Libraries News Brief

August 14, 2009

> **TIP OF THE WEEK:** **If you have questions about USAC's IT upgrade, you can refer to the August 12 Special Edition SL News Brief.** USAC will also continue to update the Upgrade FAQs posted on the website.

Commitments for Funding Years 2009 and 2008

Funding Year 2009. USAC will release FY2009 Wave 17 Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLs) August 18. This wave includes commitments for approved Priority 1 requests (Telecommunications Services and Internet Access) for schools and libraries at all discount levels. As of August 14, FY2009 commitments total over $697 million.

Funding Year 2008. USAC will release FY2008 Wave 65 FCDLs August 19. This wave includes commitments for approved Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance requests at 88% and above and denials at 86% and below. As of August 14, 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

To sign up for one of USAC's fall applicant training sessions, 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 training session.

There is still space available in Orlando, Portland, and Newark; Atlanta has some slots on the waiting list; and registration for the Houston session will open next week. 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.

FCC Broadband and Education Workshop

As part of its work to develop a National Broadband Plan, the FCC is holding a workshop on education that will cover topics ranging from E-rate reform to stimulating innovation in educational research. The workshop will be held on August 20 at 1:00 p.m. Eastern (10:00 a.m. Pacific) at the FCC headquarters, Room TW-C305 (Commission Meeting Room), at 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554.

The FCC hopes to learn about ways in which broadband can affect education at the early childhood, elementary, secondary, and post-secondary levels in a cost-effective manner. The workshop will look at current programs, such as E-rate, and evaluate how such programs can be improved, for example, to take advantage of new and developing technologies. The workshop will also look at what applications and devices might be used to improve educational performance.

Please visit the FCC's National Broadband webpage to register to attend the workshop in person, learn about how to visit the workshop via webinar, or make specific recommendations to the FCC about the workshop. The event will be broadcast live via WebEx, Second Life, and web-based video feed, and interested participants will be able to submit questions to the panelists via WebEx, Second Life, and Twitter. The Education team is also soliciting ideas for the Plan via Ideascale. Information about the Workshop (including video and Twitter feed info) can be found on the Workshop Education webpage. (WebEx video feed is confirmed; the FCC is working on a Quicktime feed as well, which will be posted closer to the event date.)

Participants interested in attending in person can register online, and participants interested in attending via WebEx can register online.

Please distribute this invitation to any other groups.

In particular, posting your ideas for how to use broadband to change and improve education and student achievement on the US Educational Broadband webpage could help change the national dialog.

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.

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