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Schools and Libraries News Brief

February 19, 2010

TIP OF THE WEEK: THE FORM 471 FILING WINDOW CLOSES TONIGHT – if you have not yet submitted your FY2010 Form 471, start it now. If you have last-minute questions or concerns, you can call CSB or refer to the Form 471 guidance documents discussed below.

FY2010 Window Closes Tonight

Remember that the FY2010 application filing window closes tonight, February 19, at 11:59 pm EST. Forms 471 electronically filed or postmarked by that date and time will be considered in-window.

The Client Service Bureau (CSB) will be open tonight beyond the close of the window – until 12:30 am EST on Saturday, February 20 – to provide information to last-minute filers. Below are several resources you can also use if you have questions:

The [Form 471 Instructions](#) provide filing requirements for the form and general instructions and minimum processing requirements. You can also find specific instructions for completing your entries for each item on the form, including detailed information on discount calculations.

The [January 29, 2010 SL News Brief](#) covers general information about Form 471.

The [Tips and Troubleshooting](#) guidance document includes specific information about online filing issues. You can always call CSB if you are having difficulties filing online, but following this guidance can help you avoid problems. Here are just a few of the tips from that document:

- **Use Internet Explorer 6.0 or higher or Netscape 7.0 or higher.** Using other browsers may generate errors and "page not found" messages during certain points in the process.
- **Disable popup blockers.** This will allow warning messages to appear if you have missed a field or entered data that is incomplete or inconsistent.
- **Clear your temporary Internet files,** especially if you are submitting multiple forms on the same day. Otherwise data from a previous form may populate a current form.
- **Set your browser to load the current version of a page.** This ensures that your browser is not loading a page from its memory with information that is out of date.
- If you are receiving an error message after completing Block 1, you may want to **check your firewall settings.**

The website guidance under [Step 7. Submit Form 471](#) contains much useful information related to Form 471. Look especially in the related guidance documents listed in the upper right-hand corner of this web page.

FCC Extends Deadlines to Comment on Modifying E-rate Rules to Comply with the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act

Due to inclement weather in the Washington, D.C. region last week, the Federal Commerce Commission (FCC) grants an extension of the deadline for filing comments on modifying the E-rate rules to comply with the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act to **February 24, 2010** and extends the deadline for filing reply comments to **March 12, 2010.**

Commitments for Funding Years 2009 and 2008

Funding Year 2009. USAC released FY2009 Wave 40 Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLs) February 18 and will release Wave 41 FCDLs February 23. These waves will include commitments for approved Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance requests at 80% and

above and denials at 54% and below. As of February 19, FY2009 commitments total over \$2.51 billion.

Funding Year 2008. USAC will release FY2008 Wave 80 FCDLs February 24. This wave will include commitments for approved Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance requests at 87% and above and denials at 86% and below. As of February 19, FY2008 commitments total over \$2.46 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.

Last Regular FY2008 Funding Wave

Wave 80, which will be mailed on February 24, will be the last regular wave for FY2008. From this point forward, USAC will issue occasional funding waves as applications complete the review process and funding decisions can be made. Following the naming convention established for past funding years, future FY2008 waves will be identified by the last regular funding wave number followed by a letter: Wave 80A, Wave 80B, Wave 80C, and so on.

Some applicants and service providers have not yet received FCDLs. On February 24, USAC will issue a letter to most of these program participants giving them additional information about the current status of their applications. Program participants that will not receive a letter dated February 24 include the following:

- Applicants and service providers that know the reason USAC has not issued an FCDL. For example, USAC has already informed non-compliant auditees by letter that commitments will not resume until they have met certain requirements. In each case, USAC has issued a copy of the letter to all affected service providers.
- Applicants with applications undergoing heightened scrutiny. In most cases, USAC will be issuing explanatory letters to these applicants and the affected service providers in the near future.
- Applicants with applications that are nearing the final stages of the review process. In these cases, USAC is expecting to issue an FCDL in the very near future.

If you have not received either an FCDL or an explanatory letter by the end of March, you can [Submit a Question](#) or call the Client Service Bureau at 1-888-203-8100 to check on the status of your application.

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