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Schools and Libraries News Brief

May 14, 2010

TIP OF THE WEEK: If you have not yet certified a Form 470 cited in Item 12 of a Form 471 Block 5 funding request, [certify it online](#) or on paper as soon as possible. Remember that if PIA asks for the certification, it becomes subject to the [15-day response deadline](#).

Commitments for Funding Year 2009

Funding Year 2009. USAC will release FY2009 Wave 53 Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLs) May 18. This wave will include commitments for approved Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance requests at 80% and above and denials at 69% and below. As of May 14, FY2009 commitments total just under \$2.7 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.

Featured Tool: Automated Search of Commitments

The [Automated Search of Commitments tool](#) allows you to search for both current and historical information for funding commitment waves. Below are some tips to help you make use of this tool.

On the opening page, you have a choice of funding years. From this page you can get summary information for a specific year by clicking on that year. If you then select a particular funding wave, you can get summary information for that wave and also detailed information for a particular applicant or group of applicants from that wave.

- On each page containing wave information, you can click on a column heading to sort the available information alphabetically (or numerically) by that column.
- Each page with wave information includes the date that the wave was issued.

After a funding decision is issued for a Funding Request Number (FRN) in a particular wave, that FRN continues to be associated with that wave.

- If an appeal on an FRN is successful and additional funds are committed on that FRN, those additional funds will show up in the detail for that FRN and the total for that wave.
- Conversely, if a Form 500 or a Commitment Adjustment (COMAD) is processed to reduce the commitment on an FRN, the reduced funding will show up in the detail for that FRN and the total for that wave.

On each page that includes data, you will see a small Excel logo. You can click on the logo to download the data from that page in Excel format.

- You can sort your data by clicking on the appropriate column heading before you download it so that it is already in the order you prefer.
- If you are interested in keeping the original wave totals for historical purposes, you should download or print the information on a particular wave as soon as it is issued because the funding amounts may change for the reasons described above.

Following is some specific information to help you understand the information you see in the tool:

Wave numbers

- Wave numbers are always three digits. For example, Wave 24 for a funding year is "024" and Wave 24A is "24A."

- Because of certain data limitations, you cannot view FY1998 data by wave number.
- In the early years of the program, some wave numbers were assigned out of sequence. For example, in FY2000, Waves 17A and DEN appear at the end of the list. However, Wave 17A ran between Wave 017 and Wave 018, and Wave DEN ran between Wave 028 and Wave 029. However, the wave numbers are in most cases in sync with the dates of the waves.

Detailed wave information

- On the wave detail pages, if there is more applicant funding information than can easily be shown on one screen, the information is separated into multiple screens. To access another screen of information, click on one of the light blue numbers in the dark blue border at the bottom of the screen. (The number in white is the number of the current page.) If you click on the Excel logo on any page, however, you can download all of the information for that wave from all of the pages.
- The funding information in the [Data Retrieval Tool \(DRT\)](#) is updated a day or two later than the information in the Automated Search of Commitments tool, so the numbers in the two tools will not always match.
- You can click on the link marked "Help" to get information on how to set detailed search options to narrow your search. To perform a detailed search, click on the "Advanced Search" link and enter the search criteria you want in the correct order and format.

Cumulative data

- The summary screen for each wave provides cumulative national data information.
- You can produce a summary report for a state by entering the funding year and two-digit state code in the field marked "Basic Search." For example, if you want the cumulative data for all FY2009 applicants in the state of Alabama, you would enter "2009 AL" in the Basic Search field and click "Search."

Funding information that does not appear in the tool

- The Automated Search of Commitments tool does not show FRNs with a zero commitment amount. This includes FRNs for which USAC has not yet made a funding decision, FRNs that were denied, and FRNs that were reduced to zero (for example, by Forms 500 or Commitment Adjustments).
- If an FRN is split after USAC issues a funding commitment wave that includes that FRN, the new FRN and its associated funding commitment will not appear. For example, if an applicant changes service providers on a committed FRN in the middle of a funding year, USAC will create a new FRN for the second service provider and move the appropriate amount of funding from the original FRN to the new FRN. The Automated Search of Commitments tool will only show the original FRN and the reduced funding amount allocated to the original service provider. However, the DRT will show both FRNs and both funding amounts.

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