

September 19, 2019 ACTEM Business Meeting

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E-Rate Updates

1. FY2019 Funding Waves

Most – but not all - funding decision commitment letters for FY2019 have been issued. If you still have an FRN under review, contact your PIA reviewer for a status report. As of September 5, there have been 23 waves, and there are approximately 50 unfunded FRNs out of the 250 FRNs that were initially filed.

2. Upcoming Forms and Deadlines

a. FY2019 Form 486

Every FRN on every Form 471 for which you receive an FCDL must be included on a Form 486 to indicate the start of services. As your various FRNs are likely to appear in different funding waves, you may very well end up with different Form 486 deadlines. Keep track of the deadline for each FRN because if your Form 486 is late, USAC will deduct a portion of your approved funding.

Deadlines:

For those FRNs in the early funding waves dated prior to July 1 (assuming services start on July 1):
October 29, 2019

For those FRNs with an FCDL dated July 1 or later:
120 days after the date of the FCDL or the start of services (whichever is later)

b. FY2018 BEAR Forms

BEARs will continue to be filed in the existing BEAR applicant login area (not in EPC). Once you have received an FCDL, have filed a Form 486, and have paid the bill(s) associated with the BEAR request for reimbursement, you may file your BEARs as often as you desire (monthly, quarterly, once a year) up to your funding commitment dollar amount.

Deadline: October 28, 2019

c. Update Your FCC Form 498

If you did not modify your existing Form 498 to comply with the new feral regulations by adding your business type (see the directions sent via email August 12), you should do so at your earliest convenience. While USAC did not specify a deadline, they too have to comply with the regulation and they will likely contact applicants who did not complete this step. It should take you less than five minutes to make the modification to your existing form and you will not be required to resubmit a voided check or other substantiating documentation.

3. FY2020

a. FY2020 Form 470

The FY2020 Form 470 is available in EPC. You must file a Form 470 if you want to receive E-Rate for FY2020 and have an expiring contract or want to request reimbursements for new products or services. Category 2 Budgets for FY2020 and beyond still remain largely a guessing game. The FCC did release a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comments on C2 budgets, and based on the comments I think it is more likely than not that the FCC will decide to implement a district-wide 5 year fixed budget beginning FY2020. I would expect an announcement either this fall or early winter, but in the meantime, you can file a Form 470 now and then simply not award a contract if the C2 tides do not turn in a favorable direction for your school district.

b. FY2020 Administrative Window

The Administrative Window will likely run October to January. During this window, you should update your enrollment and NSLP numbers in EPC before profiles are locked down just before the FY2020 Form 471 Filing Window.

c. FY2020 Form 471 Window

For planning purposes, operate under the assumption that the Form 471 filing window will open early January and close in March.

Networkmaine Updates

1. Pre-Enrollment

Pre-Enrollment will be held October 21 - November 8. Pre-enrollment is only for those sites that do not report free and reduced lunch numbers to the DOE or otherwise need to complete an Alternative Discount Mechanism Form.

2. Enrollment

Enrollment will be held in January. All new and continuing members of Networkmaine must complete enrollment. For most members, it will consist solely of a brief online survey and a Form 479 to certify CIPA compliance.