

Funding

Wed 11/3/2004 3:10 PM

Here is an new announcement for those of you that have not already seen it. Looks like funding will begin to flow again within two weeks. The funding will 'first in, first out' so be patient!

USAC to Resume Issuing Funding Commitment Decision Letters (11/03/04)

<http://www.universalservice.org/new/2004.asp#110304>

In early August, USAC suspended issuance of Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLs) for both schools and libraries and rural health care providers for all funding years. USAC has worked closely with the FCC since then and has now determined the amount of unobligated cash it has available to cover new commitments and will resume issuing new FCDLs within the next two weeks.

In issuing FCDLs, USAC will follow the prioritization principles posted on this web site on October 27. Note that available funds are calculated separately for each support mechanism.

Generally, commitments will be issued for applications and meritorious appeals for funding years prior to Funding Year 2004 first and then, for Funding Year 2004, requests for telecommunications services and Internet access (Priority 1) first and, for schools and libraries, internal connections second. If funds are not sufficient for all pending requests within one priority, requests will be funded based on the date the application review was completed.

USAC expects to have sufficient funds to make commitments on all pending Rural Health Care requests that have completed review and generally to be able to issue FCDLs on other pending applications as review is completed. With respect to the Schools and Libraries mechanism, USAC expects to issue FCDLs for all applications for funding years prior to 2004 that have completed review and to have sufficient funds to make commitments for Priority 1 services on some portion of the applications that have completed review based on the date of completion. As additional funds become available through contributions to the Universal Service Fund and through "deobligation" of previously committed funds (for example, funds committed for recurring services for Funding Year 2003 and not invoiced by October 28, 2004), USAC will make additional commitments -- first for prior-year applications and appeals and then for Priority 1 requests on applications for 2004. Commitments for prior years will be made as they become ready. For Funding Year 2004, USAC expects to issue periodic "waves" of commitments. USAC cannot predict the exact timing at this time, but expects at least one such wave a month.