



NEWS

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See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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E-Rate Program Issues New Funding Commitments for Providing Internet, Telecommunications Services To Nation's Schools and Libraries

Washington, D.C. – The federal program that helps provide Internet access to the nation's schools and libraries has approved \$24.2 million in new funding for projects and services.

The Schools and Libraries Division of the Universal Service Administrative Company promised the funding in 194 commitment letters mailed to schools and libraries on Monday. USAC, a private non-profit corporation that administers the program for the Federal Communications Commission, expects to issue additional funding letters by the end of the month. USAC and the FCC will continue to work to ensure that funding commitments are made as money is available.

The 194 letters will enable applicants to get discounts of between 70 to 90 percent from contractors installing internal connections at schools and libraries, and discounts at all levels for the purchase of telecommunications and Internet services. USAC pays to the contractor the balance of charges not paid by the school.

The letters will commit funds for some of the applications and appeals remaining from 2003 and prior funding years. USAC had issued \$764 million in commitment letters for funding year 2004 before new letters were suspended in August. Letters to be sent near the end of November will be for additional Funding Year 2004 commitments that have been approved for funding and for which cash is available. Additional Funding Year 2004 commitments will be issued in the future as money is available.

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