



PUBLIC NOTICE

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WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR E-RATE PARTICIPANTS TO REQUEST INVOICE DEADLINE EXTENSIONS

CC Docket No. 02-6

The Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) announces that it is extending the deadline for E-rate participants with an October 28, 2016 invoice deadline for Funding Year 2015 to request an extension of the invoice deadline due to technical problems that might have prevented parties from filing.¹ Entities and service providers with an October 28, 2016 invoice deadline now have until 11:59 p.m. on October 31, 2016 to submit extension requests.²

Under Commission rules, applicants and service providers may receive a one-time, 120-day extension of the invoice deadline for any cause, if the billed entity or service provider requests the extension before the invoice deadline.³ To request an extension, the Universal Service Company (USAC) created an Invoice Deadline Extension Tool, which generates an automatic approval or denial message for each funding request number (FRN) entered. Invoice deadline extensions requested after the last date to invoice for a particular FRN will be automatically denied. Invoice deadline extension requests can also be submitted by using USAC's Submit a Question tool.

This morning, Friday, October 28, 2016, the Bureau learned that the Invoice Deadline Extension Tool was improperly denying invoice deadline extension requests because it was using the previous day as the last date to invoice. The Bureau also learned that, at the same time, the Submit a Question tool was experiencing technical problems that prevented parties from submitting invoice deadline extension requests through that tool. By shortly after noon today, USAC had restored the functionality of both tools.

¹ The Commission has delegated authority to the Chief of the Wireline Competition Bureau to resolve unanticipated technical and operational issues relating to the universal service mechanisms (including the E-rate program) that may arise. *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Third Report and Order, 12 FCC Rcd 22485, 22488-89, para. 6 (1997). See also *Modernizing the E-rate Program for Schools and Libraries*, WC Docket No. 13-184, Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 29 FCC Rcd 8870, 8922, para. 133 (2014) (reaffirming this delegation of authority to the Bureau).

² October 28, 2016 is the deadline for most applicants and service providers for submitting invoices for funding year 2015 recurring services and, thus, the deadline for requesting an invoice deadline extension to invoice for those services.

³ 47 CFR § 54.514(b). The Commission's E-rate rules require applicants and service providers to submit invoicing forms for reimbursement to USAC no later than 120 days after the last day to receive service or 120 days after the date of the FCC Form 486 Notification Letter, whichever is later. 47 CFR § 54.514(a).

Because of these unanticipated technical issues that might have prevented requests for invoice deadline extensions, the Bureau extends the October 28, 2016 invoice deadline until 11:59 p.m. on October 31, 2016. Entities and service providers that need a one-time, 120-day extension should follow the USAC guidance found here on the USAC website: <http://usac.org/sl/tools/news-briefs/preview.aspx?id=724>.

For more information, please contact James Bachtell, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau at (202) 418-7400 or (202) 418-0484 (TTY), or at james.bachtell@fcc.gov.

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