Item 21 Attachments

Colorado Association of Libraries
Annual Conference

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What is the E-Rate?

- Federal program to subsidize the cost of ~~telecommunications and Internet access~~ broadband to schools and libraries

- Applicants receive 20%-90% "discount" on costs for eligible services

- Not a competitive grant; all applicants receive some funding

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E-Rate 2.0: the Origin

- In June 2013, President Obama called for an expansion of the E-Rate program to:
  - Bring 100 Mbps to 99% of schools nationwide
  - Put Wi-Fi in schools
- For a year, the FCC collected input
- In July 2014, the FCC adopted the E-Rate Modernization Order

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E-Rate 2.0: The Goals

- Refocusing of funding on broadband
  - Removal or phase-down of non-broadband
- Increasing cost-effectiveness
- Simplifying the application process

Focus on Broadband

- No changes to eligibility of broadband
- Voice services phased out
- Voice equipment removed
- Video services and equipment removed
- Other non-broadband services removed
  - E-mail
  - Webhosting
  - Voicemail
- Caching added
- Managed Internal Broadband Services added

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Priority 2 is now Category 2

- Voice, video and servers dropped
- Top discount dropped from 90% to 85%
- $2.30-in-5 replaces 2-in-5
  - Libraries can spend up to $2.30 per square foot in 5 years
  - 5-year window starts the first year of C2 funding
  - The $2.30/sq.ft. budget is per-location
- Caching added
- Managed internal broadband services
- $1 billion available next 2 years, then ?

Maximizing Cost-Effectiveness

- Item 21 data will be public
- Consortium purchasing encouraged
- Lowest Corresponding Price

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Simplifying the Process

- No tech plans

- Checks straight from USAC to applicants

- USAC processing changes

  - Speeding review

  - Improving online system

  - Improving access to data

  - Plain language review

Not Simplifying the Process

- Discount calculation simplified
  - Urban/rural criteria changed
- Must file electronically
  - New forms coming soon
- New form for multi-year contracts. Later.
- No 470 for certain Internet access
- Appeals must be filed with USAC first
- Documents must be retained for 10 years

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E-Rate 2.1: What's Next

- Funding increase?
- More consortium incentives?
- More funding for libraries?

Questions

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Thank you!

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