

Broadband Florida Q3 2014 PPR Report Details Project Attachment – Technical Assistance (E-rate)

Question 2: Describe your progress meeting each major activity/milestone approved in the Project Plan for this project; any challenges or obstacles encountered and mitigation strategies you have employed; planned major activities for the next quarter; and any additional project milestones or information.

The E-rate Assistance Team continued to provide outreach, assistance, and training to Florida schools and libraries throughout the quarter in addition to conducting research and analysis of factors affecting success rates in the program.

During the third quarter of 2014, the E-rate Assistance Team continued providing clarifying information to Universal Service Administration Company (USAC) Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) review and selective review staff for funding year 2014-15.

During the upcoming quarter, the team is scheduled to conduct training and assistance, learn about how the schools and/or libraries are using E-rate support, and determine current and future education technology challenges. The team will continue working on other projects jointly with DMS and external stakeholder agencies.

FY 2014-2015 State Master Contract Filing Process

During the funding year 2014-15 filing window, the E-rate Assistance Team filed 100 applications and 171 individual funding requests for \$9,134,987.16 of support on behalf of Florida schools and libraries using State Master Contract services. In the second quarter, the team responded to subsequent PIA review inquiries related to 58 of the 100 applications. In response to a pending legislative mandate the team filed a statewide consortium E-rate application to support increased district bandwidth requirements for 3,467 K-12 schools across 68 Florida school districts, totaling \$26,492,273.85. This application was canceled based on the outcome of the pending mandate. In the third quarter, USAC committed \$8,965,858.01 of the corrected \$9,035,638.06 requested funds.

Post-Discount Annual Funding by Category of Service

Service	Original Request	Adjusted Request *	Committed Funding
INTERNET ACCESS	\$29,674,460.06	\$3,083,125.06	\$3,027,181.16
TELCOMM SERVICES	\$5,952,801.00	\$5,952,513.00	\$5,938,676.85
Grand Total	\$35,627,261.06	\$9,035,638.06	\$8,965,858.01

*The Adjusted Request column indicates requested funding after RAL changes, modifications during PIA review, and cancellations applied.

FY 2013-2014 State Master Contract Filing Process

The E-Rate Assistance Team continued to receive clarification requests from USAC staff related to PIA reviews and an agency-wide Selective Review concentrating on 15 State Master Contracts. The team collaborated with internal Department teams on billing and USAC invoicing procedures. The team began collecting invoicing information and filing Billed Entity Applicant Reimbursement (BEAR) forms on behalf of Florida schools and libraries. DMS continued receiving Funding Commitment Decision Letters and conducted subsequent applicant outreach for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Form 486 filing process.

Outreach to Other Stakeholder State Agencies

The team continues to work with the Florida Department of Education (DOE) staff directly responsible for NSLP statistics, technology plan review and approval, and continued to function as a liaison between USAC and the DOE regarding PIA questions pertaining to eligible entities and NSLP information.

Outreach Within the Department of Management Services

The E-rate team continues to work hand-in-hand with DMS product managers to ensure E-rate program compliance during DMS procurement processes and with resulting contracts. The team continued to advise DMS staff on procurements for services such as local & long distance telephone services, broadband contract amendments, and data service offerings. The team assisted in coordinating collection of data and documents requested by USAC.

The team continues to work with internal DMS staff to design and execute billing and USAC invoicing processes for State Master Contract customers and annual reconciliation of all broadband contract billing.

Other E-rate Assistance Team Outreach Efforts

The team issued weekly E-rate related bulletins via a customized LISTSERV and actively participated in weekly issues/teleconferences with the State E-rate Coordinators' Alliance. It also conducted weekly monitoring of USAC weekly briefs and distributed these bulletins to our constituency as needed via:

- Individual Phone or Email contact
- Webinar when appropriate
- One-on-one assistance
- Improved outreach and event registration methodology

Training & Conferences

During the third quarter, the team participated in several internal training exercises and provided compliance advice and personal training on compliance topics with DMS staff. In preparing training materials for the funding year 2015-16, the team has tracked pending E-rate program changes, known as E-rate Modernization or E-rate 2.0.