



On October 6, the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) extended several key E-Rate and Lifeline program deadlines for states and territories impacted by recent hurricanes. The FCC provided schools and libraries located in designated disaster areas in Texas, Florida, Georgia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands with waivers for the following deadlines:

- Requests for review or waiver of decisions by USAC, directed to USAC or the Commission
- Filing FCC Form 486 (Receipt of Service Confirmation and Children’s Internet Protection Act Certification (CIPA) Form).
- Filing FCC Form 472 (Billed Entity Applicant Reimbursement (BEAR) Form) and Form 474 (Service Provider Invoice Form).

Affected program beneficiaries are allowed up to 150 calendar days (beginning October 6) to submit required filings. Applicants located in Affected Disaster Areas may also benefit from the following implementation deadline extensions:

- Those scheduled to complete installation of internal connections and other non-recurring services (other than special construction) by 9/30/17 for FY16 will be granted an extension to 9/30/18.
- Those that receive FY17 commitments for special construction, the 6/30/18 deadline to complete the special construction and light the new fiber will be extended until 6/30/19 (subject to applicant filing a valid FCC Form 500 certifying that construction for the project was unavoidable delayed due to damage caused by the Hurricanes).
- Waiver of Section 54.516(a) of the FCC rules with respect to destroyed records (schools, libraries, consortia and service providers must retain all documents related to their application for a minimum of 10 years after the last day of the applicable funding year or the service delivery deadline for funding). There will be no penalty for applicants and service providers for failure to retain records destroyed by the Hurricanes. Applicants and service providers will be required to certify that the records, and any copies, were destroyed by the Hurricanes. Applicants and service providers are responsible for attaining records from a third party, if requested by USAC or the FCC.

The FCC ordered a 150 day waiver period, but applicants or service providers who are unable to comply with this deadline may request additional relief from these or other requirements.