

This timeline constitutes an ideal scenario where the applicant is submitting an application correctly and there is no back and forth with the applicant.

This is not the typical occurrence

Ideal Timeline for E-rate Applications

FCC approval of Eligible Services List determines the opening of the window (FY2005 December 2004 window open date)

- Applicants file Form 471 within the Filing Window (Filing Windows historically run about 70–80 days. All applications received during the Window and that meet minimum standards are treated as being received at the same time, whether it's the first day of the Window or the last)

FCC Approval of Program Integrity Assurance Procedures (PIA) determines when the funding commitment decision letters are issued. (FY2005 June)

- As soon as we have applications in the door—and reviewers have all of the necessary elements from the applicant—they will begin reviewing them
- Once Window closes (**LET'S ASSUME FEBRUARY 15* FOR THIS EXERCISE**), USAC files a demand estimate with the FCC around **APRIL 1**. As soon as this is approved, USAC can begin to issue the first wave of funding (**APRIL 21**).
- The ideal[†] small priority 1 application (<\$15,000) would be included in the first funding waves. At the rate of approximately 500 applications reviewed per day, a plurality of small applications could be funded by **JULY 1**.
- The ideal medium-sized priority 1 application (\$50–\$250K) would also begin to see commitments in **JULY and AUGUST**
- Funds for large applications (>\$500,000) take significantly longer to review than small applications. Give and take with applicants would ideally take 1–3 months with funding beginning to flow in **AUGUST**
- Funds for priority 2 are not released until USAC determines funds are available at a given discount rate and the FCC approves priority 2 funding, typically beginning around **JULY**
- The ideal small priority 2 application would be included in the first priority 2 funding waves. A plurality of these would be funded by **SEPTEMBER 1**
- The ideal medium-sized priority 2 applications would see commitments flow in **AUGUST and SEPTEMBER**
- The ideal large priority 2 application takes a significant period to review, including back and forth with the applicant. An ideal application would see funding commitments in **OCTOBER**
- Services can start at the beginning of the fund year (**JULY 1**). Applicants submit a Form 486 indicating services have been delivered and USAC should begin to pay invoices
- Invoices are submitted and disbursements are made on the invoices ideally within 30 days of receipt

* The February 15 date is hypothetical and does not indicate a real future Window closing date