



Contact:
Tanya Sullivan, Senior Director
External Relations
(202) 263-1657

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**USAC Will Release First Commitments for Funding Year 2006
in the Schools and Libraries Program April 26**

USAC Commits \$126 million in Wave One of FY2006 to over 4,880 Applicants

Washington, D.C. – The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) today announced it will release wave one of funding commitment decision letters (FCDLs) to Funding Year 2006 school and library applicants April 26. USAC will send over 4,880 letters committing more than \$126.4 million in Universal Service Fund support. This first wave of Funding Year 2006 is being released over two months earlier than the first wave in Funding Year 2005. The letters notify applicants of funding commitments for Priority One services (telecommunications and Internet access) for all discount bands from 20% - 90%.

On March 20, 2006, the Schools and Libraries Division of USAC reported to the Federal Communications Commission that \$3.55 billion in requested funding had been estimated for schools and libraries seeking discounts for Funding Year 2006. This estimate was based on the total funding requested in 39,416 applications received or postmarked by February 16, 2006, the close of the application filing window.

The Schools and Libraries Program of the Universal Service Fund has a funding cap of \$2.25 billion. All funding requests are extensively reviewed for compliance with FCC program rules.

About the Universal Service Administrative Company

The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) is an independent, not-for-profit corporation designated as the permanent administrator of the Universal Service Fund by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). USAC administers the Universal Service Fund and the universal service support programs for high cost companies serving rural areas, low-income consumers, rural health care providers, and schools and libraries pursuant to the requirements of FCC rules. The Universal Service Fund helps provide communities across the country with affordable telecommunications services. For more information, please visit: www.usac.org.

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