



Orange County Public Schools
200 Dailey Drive, Orange VA 22960

July 11, 2018

Schools and Libraries Division – Correspondent Unit
30 Lanidex Plaza West
PO Box 685
Parsippany, NJ 07054-0685

Re: Letter of Appeal to Extension Denial (06/22/2018)
To Whom It May Concern:

Entity & BEN	Orange County Public Schools (BEN 126481)
Contact Person	Bruno Sestito & Donald Stafford
Contact Information	Orange County Public Schools (BEN 126481)
Mailing Address	200 Dailey Drive, Orange VA 22960
Phone Number	540-661-4550
E-mail	Donald Stafford (dstafford@ocss-va.org)
Service Provider	Computer Cabling & Telephone Services, Inc. (SPIN:143007932)
Funding Year	2016
Application Type & Application Number	Form 471 Application #161045819
FRN	1699102673
Appeal Reason	RFCDL Service Delivery Extension Request Dated June 22, 2018 was Denied. Reason given was "the Request was received after 6/30/2017." From June 30, 2017 to February 13, 2018; OCPS encountered numerous system data errors including the inability for the Fiber Contractor to receive reimbursements.

Project Overview:

Orange County Public Schools' (OCPS) project goal to connect all ten (10) facilities to a dedicated, reliable, open access fiber network is fully supported by the community and endorsed by the Orange County Board of Supervisors, the Town of Gordonsville, the Town of Orange, and our legislative representative. In an effort to ensure a timely and

professional project implementation, the Orange County Board of Supervisors hired a consultant fiber implementation manager to work with County staff to oversee the project management and construction process.

Chronology of Events:

- April 26, 2016: Contract awarded to Computer Cabling Telephone Services, Inc. for self-provisioned fiber
- May 19, 2016: USAC form 471 filed for grant
- June 29, 2017: OCPS filed for an extension as grant was not yet awarded
- June 30, 2017: Grant awarded (to be completed same day)
- July 3, 2017: Form 486 certified
- July 13, 2017: Extension approved
- October 2, 2017: Form 486 Notification Letter issued
- November 14, 2017: Invoicing Issue Case Opened Case #206598
- December 6, 2017: Case created to correct invoicing and extension deadlines, Case #210017
- January 22, 2018: USAC determines it has error in coding of OCPS project in system
- February 12, 2018: Invoice processed for Fiber Contractor
- March-April 2018: VDOT permit delays and weather delays
- April 26, 2018: Requested an extension
- June 22, 2018: Extension Denied & **“Expiration Date All Extensions 4/27/2019”**

Appeal Explanation:

Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) applied for the grant on May 19, 2016 with the consent of the Orange County Public School Board and the support of the Orange County Boards of Supervisors and Orange County Broadband Authority. After eleven (11) months of no award notification, OCPS filed an Extension Request on June 29, 2017. OCPS was awarded the grant on the final day of the grant year, June 30, 2016; allocating six hours to complete the thirty-three mile fiber installation. After the Form 471 was approved, Form 486 was filed on July 3, 2017 and approval of the Extension was issued on July 12, 2017.

Form 486 Notification letter was received on October 2, 2017; at which time the Fiber Contractor began preliminary work on the project including preparing documentation for the DMV, the Railroad, and the Towns to obtain approval and permits for construction. In early October 2017, OCPS was notified of invoicing issues between the Fiber Contractor and USAC. USAC admitted the delay was their error due to a coding issue with the approval of Form 486 that was not resolved until February 12, 2018, causing an eight (8) month delay. In addition to USAC's delay, OCPS worked to combat VDOT permit and weather-related construction delays.

Due to the various delays, OCPS began laying fiber in early April 2018.

Attached is a document containing e-mails and a sampling of the Customer Service Cases #195945, #208599, and #210017.

There are also five (5) e-mail reports dated from September 2017 to January 2018 sent to Computer Cabling & Telephone Services from USAC showing denials of payments. The first approval of payments in February 2018 is included in the documentation.

Next Steps:

As noted above, attached, you will find communications and case information regarding the issues described herein. The correspondence demonstrates delays caused by USAC and relays reassurances that OCPS was eligible for an extension and had every reason to expect one to be issued in a timely manner. We appreciate your urgency and professionalism in resolving this issue as quickly as possible. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if we may be of any assistance. We look forward to working together to complete our thirty-three mile self-provisioned network.

Sincerely,

Orange County Public Schools



ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TAYLOR EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION COMPLEX
200 DAILEY DRIVE
ORANGE, VIRGINIA 22960

www.ocss-va.org

540-661-4550

Fax 540-661-4599

July 10, 2018

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P.O. Box 685
Parsippany, NJ 07054-0685

Re: Orange County Public Schools Fiber Network Support

To Whom It Concerns:

The School Board and Superintendent of Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) are fully supportive of the the fiber network project to connect all ten school facilities to a dedicated, reliable, open access fiber network. This fiber network project is an important, if not vital, component in realizing the achievement of at least two strategic goals as documented in the school board approved OCPS Strategic Plan for 2018-2023:

- (1) By 2023, all teachers will be proficient in the area of computer science in order to ensure that all students receive instruction in the technology skills needed for computer literacy and digital citizenship.***
- (2) Increase student and staff access to Internet-ready technology at school and at home in order to support teaching and learning.***

We fully believe that the fiber network project will position our staff to operate instructionally with confidence, purpose, and fidelity while ensuring that our students are prepared for the challenges and the demands that the domestic and global economies present.

Sincerely,

Sherrie W. Page
Orange County School Board Chairman

Cecil C. Snead, II, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Orange County Public Schools