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Harvey Public Library District  
15441 Turlington Ave. 60426  
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USAC BEN #135535  
BE FCC RN #0011808193  
DOC #02-6  
RN #40600  
471 #16106037

The Harvey Public Library District applied for the E-RATE grant in 2016 for the twelve months of services. However, due to technical difficulties only one month was submitted. USAC offered to reimburse Harvey Public Library District for only one month of the twelve months of eligible services that HPLD applied for in 2016. The number of months entered was twelve however, the system only wanted to recognize the number one instead of the number twelve. The EPC portal was new and confusing. After multiple efforts of inputting this information into the portal, trying to make sure the data was correct, and to my understanding, I thought that it finally took, but that was not the case. USAC responded to HPLD with a denial letter stating that only one month was submitted. I tried to explain my experience that I had with the new interface portal that USAC had launched, but USAC explained that the eleven months of services were denied and one month of service was approved. HPLD asked USAC if it was possible to correct the data on the application to twelve months of the services. USAC stated that HPLD had to file a formal appeal. HPLD appealed the one-month approval and submitted the appeal for the eleven months however, USAC denied the appeal. HPLD found out later that before the decision was made we could have corrected form 471, but HPLD had no insight that the form could be corrected before any final decision was made.

HPLD would like to appeal to FCC USAC's decision to deny our appeal and to add the other eleven eligible months to the one month of reimbursement that USAC granted to our 2016 '471' application.

USAC has been granting HPLD the full years support for eligible services for the past several years. Each of the first 2 years after USAC started the new EPC portal. HPLD was denied the full twelve months of reimbursement even though HPLD was eligible for it. The fault lies with HPLD, nevertheless, the electronic application for the 471 had a computer glitch, numerous times I tried inputting twelve months into the portal but for some reason the portal kept kicking the number twelve out and only accepting the number one.

The Harvey Public Library District is in the middle of a hardship. The tax collection rate is down by 30% and constantly decreasing. Tax revenue is not coming in due to refunds from property tax assessment given by the Cook County's Treasurers Office.

The District is in dire need of financial help. The district cannot afford to lose grant funding due to an electronic error. This miscalculation is on the district however, this inaccuracy should not be viewed as an error in which we are not following protocol or the district is in non-compliance with the USAC's guidelines with grant funding. The district recognize that this was a mistake on our part, however, the district is asking FCC to reconsider the decision of USAC's appeal and reward the eleven months to the district for the prior year of 2016 E-RATE grant funding.

The 2016 grant funding is part of the District anticipated revenue in which the grant funding was calculated to offset the expense of the AT&T bill, consisting of: landlines, internet services, mobility services and long distance services. These bills are very expensive and without the continue support of grant funding, it is detrimental to the financial operation of the district. HPLD is a public library and we depend solely upon tax revenue from the citizens of Harvey, IL. The housing vacancy rate is gradually climbing, and Harvey is losing businesses at rapid speed. My main concern is saving this

beautiful library, and every dollar counts. I am reaching out to FCC pleading with FCC to consider over turning USAC's decision for the betterment of this community, this city, this library, and our citizens. If there is any glimmer of hope that we can make necessary corrections, so that HPLD will not lose out on grant funding, we are willing to go the extra mile to reapply, re-do form 471, etc...

HPLD is hoping that we can be awarded grant funds so that this library can move into the next fiscal year unscathed without any further financial burdens.

Warm Regards  
Michael Richardson