

December 1, 2018

Letter of Appeal
Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Federal Communication Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: In the Matter of Request for Review of the Universal Service Administrator, Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism.
CC Docket No.02-6

In re:
Billed Entity Number:
Appellant: E Rate Solutions Group
Applicant: **East Orange Child Development**
Fund Year: 2018 FCC Form 471: 1171044721 (category 1)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This is a "Letter For a Waiver of the time to file for a Form 486 for Application 171044721 with associated FRN's 1799102608 and 1799104069 due various internal administration issues including the death of the Executive Director at the time in 2017. In addition, the consultant at the time withdrew from their relationship with the organization without informing any of the remaining School Officials. All 486 reminder notices were not received by any active personnel at the time of the notice. Please issue a waiver of the time to file a Form 486 so that the Service Start Date can be adjusted to July 1, 2017 so that the School can receive their badly needed funding. The invoicing Deadline is March 25, 2019 which may require an invoice extension should the Appeal be granted. In addition, there were additional delays in filing Form 486 as the school was unable to timely gain access to their account in EPC due to the death of the Executive Director at the time.

In addition, various inherent flaws in USAC's EPC system aided in this problem as described in detail in Chairman Pai's April 18, 2017, letter to Chris Henderson of USAC, the USAC EPC ("Epic") Portal system, and USAC as a whole, have "serious flaws." For example:

- There were repeated problems and various outages with the EPC Portal input system, during which users could not access or upload necessary data.
- USAC instituted an arbitrary lock-down of data that prevented the update of filers' account portals.

- Unexplained blocks on the filing of Forms 471 occurred, preventing the necessary filing of forms prior to the close of the filing window, and/or necessitating filing for benefits under an incorrect entity identification.

The Chairman specifically instructed USAC to “identify alternative options to assist applicants even in the event of IT failures.” In our case, such IT failures and other numerous problems evident in the USAC system and structure have prevented timely filing of the Form 486.

Therefore we are formally requesting a Waiver of the time to file the Form 486 by either adjusting the current Service Start Date or allowing a new Form 486 to be filed. Extension of the Invoicing Deadline which is currently not expired, may be needed if a decision is reached after the current deadline.

I believe that the intent of the program is to make sure all eligible schools and libraries receive phone, internet access and internal networking equipment maintenance services as well as internal networking equipment. This school should not be penalized due to any delays in providing requested information which was beyond their control. I sincerely hope that this material will be reviewed and the application reviewed on the information previously provided.

Thank you,
Katherine M. Weiss
Consultant
